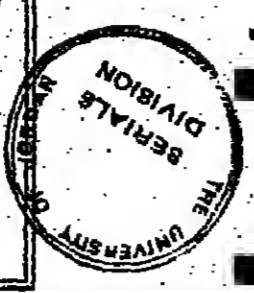


July 3, 1998

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Money Meridor's agenda Tel Aviv's subway Papandreou's legacy

Netanyahu backs away from separation idea

PRIME Minister Binyamin Netanyahu distanced his government yesterday from the idea of separation, a notion which was embraced by the Labor government...

Since taking office, Netanyahu has not made public reference to a Palestinian 'entity' nor defined how he envisions it.

DAVID MAKOVSKY and BILL HUTMAN

The idea, however, was opposed by former prime minister Shimon Peres, ostensibly on the same economic grounds put forward yesterday by Netanyahu.

Netanyahu did not respond to a question yesterday about when he would lift the closure, saying it would depend upon security conditions.

from a purely security point of view, police favor the continuation of the tight closure on Judea, Samaria, and Gaza that prevents most Palestinians from entering Israel.

Netanyahu may be asked to volunteer cuts in US aid

DAVID MAKOVSKY

A leading congressman, joined perhaps by key senators, is expected to tell Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu during his visit to Washington next week that the \$1.2 billion in non-military US aid to Israel should be cut in the future...

Moreover, the source said this may be also voiced to Netanyahu by key members of the Senate such as John Kyl (Rep.-Arizona), Frank Lautenberg (Dem.-NJ) and Dianne Feinstein (Dem.-California).

But sources close to Netanyahu doubt he will offer cuts. Rather, he will point to current budget cutting and plans for structural market-economy reforms as signs Israel is serious about getting its own house in order...



Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu gets some advice and a friendly pat on the shoulder from Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel during yesterday's cabinet discussion on the budget.

Cabinet approves NIS 4.9 billion budget cut

DAVID HARRIS and DAVID MAKOVSKY

THE cabinet yesterday agreed on a NIS 4.9 billion cut to next year's budget and set a target of lowering the balance of payments deficit by 2.8 percent of the gross domestic product.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu pledged that Israel will embark on a "sweeping liberalization policy," which will include privatization and deregulation alongside the necessary budget-cutting.

During yesterday's five-and-a-half-hour cabinet meeting, 12 ministers voted in favor of the proposals brought by the prime minister and Finance Minister Dan Meridor.

Five others, led by Yitzhak Mordechai (Likud), together with party colleagues David Levy and Moshe Katsav, and the NRP's Zevulun Hammer and Yitzhak Levul, voted for a compromise budget.

The Defense and Education Ministries, under Mordechai and Hammer respectively, are among

those which will be hardest hit when the final budget is set.

While Meridor said he understands each minister must represent his best interest, he compared the cabinet to a family. "First you see how much money you have, then you ask the child what he wants. You don't ask all the children what they want first and then clarify where the money's coming from."

The cabinet is expected to vote on ministry allocations and set the final details of the budget before Netanyahu leaves for the United States next Monday.

PM: Egged should face competition

DAVID MAKOVSKY

PRIME Minister Binyamin Netanyahu suggested yesterday he is planning to open up Egged to competition from new bus companies.

Speaking to the Foreign Press Association, Netanyahu declared: "If you have the largest bus cooperative in Israel, you should see whether the price of bus fares in Israel is lower or higher than where there are, for example, competing bus companies."

"Where there are monopolies, you will see that the staples of life cost more. Since the staples are a high proportion of the lower-income classes, the lack of a free market penalizes the least fortunate members of the society. I intend to change that."

"I intend to create a lower cost in most areas of life for goods and services for the population as a whole and this will most directly [benefit] the least fortunate."

Histadrut declares war on government budget cuts

MICHAL YUDELMAN

THE Histadrut declared yesterday it would fight the government's planned budget cuts and other economic measures, which it said would lead to mass dismissals, unemployment, and recession.

Histadrut Chairman Amir Peretz is to meet Finance Minister Dan Meridor today and plans to warn the government not to violate signed wage and pension agreements.

"All those who criticized the Histadrut's one-hour strike on Monday as unjustified, today realize just how right and justified it was. But yesterday's strike was a moderate, polite step compared to what the Histadrut is planning for the near future," Peretz said.

The announcement of the government's plan to slash the budget by some NIS 5 billion apparently took Peretz by surprise. On Monday, Peretz had a relaxed, friendly meeting with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, who promised him that the economic measures would not harm salaried workers.

The drastic cut, Peretz said angrily, constitutes "a severe blow to the education, welfare, and social services, and will lead to mass dismissals, mainly in the civil service; but they [the government] will also demand dismissals in the government corporations. The cuts spell direct, immediate damage to the weaker classes and wage earners."

Peretz will demand that Meridor, at their meeting today, explicitly state that the government will uphold signed agreements regarding wages, pensions, and the cost-of-living increment.

Peretz warned that the government is playing a deceptive political trick on the public.

"What the government is doing appears to be a calming, sophisticated political move. They're saying, 'We'll have to hurt the public during the first year, bear it slowly during the second and third year, and then ease up and make things better in the fourth year.'"

"But such a drastic move will cause so many casualties, that they won't recover for many years. The measures the government is planning will lead to severe unemployment. The prime minister assured me [Monday] that he has no intention of hurting the weaker classes and hired workers. But such a drastic cut in services in such a short time, which the workers will have to pay for, will definitely damage their income and worsen their situation," he said.

The Histadrut is preparing to struggle, both in the Knesset and in the workplaces, to prevent the government cutbacks.

"I hope we find enough partners in the Knesset to topple the attempts for this political manipulation, which says let's slash the budget drastically in the first year, to create a reserve for the coming years," Peretz said.

Yeltsin, Zyuganov out of limelight before vote

MOSCOW (Reuters) - The two players in the final act of Russia's election drama were left in the wings yesterday, as a final-day campaigning ban kept them out of the limelight.

For President Boris Yeltsin's team, it was a relief. Aides said the 65-year-old president, who dropped suddenly out of sight on June 26 and reappeared stiff and wooden in a pre-recorded television broadcast on Monday, was doing paperwork.

Communist Gennady Zyuganov, who was just three points behind Yeltsin in the first round of balloting on June 16, canceled a planned news conference, apparently for fear of violating election law.

But Russia's largely pro-Yeltsin media and the Kremlin spin doctors scrambled for ways to give an extra boost to the president, who stayed closeted in his country dacha near Moscow yesterday, trying to fight off an untimely bout of ill-health.

Aides say a low turnout, favoring the more disciplined communist electorate, is the main threat to Yeltsin. State television ran urgent appeals from well-known personalities urging people to vote - though without saying for whom.

Turnout in the first round was nearly 70 percent. Kremlin and independent analysts say 60 percent or less spells danger for Yeltsin.

With so much at stake, the Kremlin has launched a major damage limitation campaign to play down the significance of Yeltsin's illness on the eve of a poll which he has billed as a crusade to stop a communist comeback in Russia.

Since communist times, ill-health in the Kremlin leadership has been synonymous with political weakness.

Aides said Yeltsin had lost his voice during vigorous first-round campaigning and Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said he was getting over a cold.

Yeltsin had two mild heart attacks in 1995, but he staged a remarkable recovery this year, criss-crossing the country and dancing for the cameras during the first-round campaign.

The Russian media has drawn little attention to his illness and many people across the vast federation remained unaware of concern over his health.

The Kremlin press service even resorted to playing up the defeat of the former communist rulers in Mongolian elections on Sunday. Yeltsin was "satisfied that the peoples of Russia and Mongolia are moving towards freedom, democracy and prosperity".

"Even Mongolian herdsmen vote for democracy," the pro-Yeltsin daily Ivestia said in a front-page headline. Yeltsin's spokesman, Sergei Medvedev, said the president would vote today in the southwestern Moscow suburb where he cast his ballot in the first round. Press aides began to make preparations for journalists to cover the event.

An official in Yeltsin's press service, Igor Ignatyev, also dismissed rumors that the Kremlin leader had been taken to hospital. He said someone was "making money" in Western financial markets out of the rumors.

In Moscow, concern about Yeltsin's health kept foreign investors away from the once-booming share market, but bond prices rose.

Zyuganov's camp has sought to reap as much capital from Yeltsin's predicament as possible, following his rigid and unconvincing bearing in the television broadcast.

"We haven't seen him for several days and today they showed us a painted mummy as if they'd just got it from the mausoleum," Zyuganov backer Stanislav Govorukhin told a news conference on Monday.

"Today they are suggesting we vote for a living corpse."

Lebed seeks power, Page 4

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# Turkish PM: Israel must leave Golan

ANKARA (Reuters) - Turkey's new Islamist Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan yesterday called for Israel to withdraw from the Golan Heights and promised closer relations with the Arab world.

"Israel must abide by United Nations decisions and, as a first step to secure peace in the Middle East, withdraw from the territories it invaded, including the Golan Heights," Erbakan told a delegation of visiting US State Department officials.

Erbakan became Turkey's first Islamist leader under a coalition deal with the Conservative True Path Party, led by former prime minister Tansu Ciller last week.

He has, so far, not repeated a previous vow to scrap the military agreement between Israel and Turkey.

"It is necessary for the stability

of the region for Turkey to form closer relations with all the brotherly Muslim countries in the region," Erbakan said, in a statement released to the media after the meeting with US officials.

He also said he would not break Turkey's close ties to the West.

Tension was running high between Syria and Turkey until last week. Last month tension escalated, with each country claiming the other had massed troops on their shared border.

Relations between Ankara and Damascus hit their lowest ebb after Turkey signed the military pact with Israel in February.

Erbakan also told the US delegation he favored changes in the mandate of a US-led air force that patrols northern Iraq from an air base in southern Turkey.



Former defense minister Moshe Arens (right) and Palestinian Authority Planning Minister Nabih Shaath dine yesterday in London during a conference on the Middle East. (Reuters)

# IAF hits terror base in Lebanon

DAVID RUDGE

IAF warplanes struck at a Palestinian terror group base in the eastern part of Lebanon's Bekaa Valley yesterday, only a few kilometers from the border with Syria.

The IDF Spokesman said the target hit in the morning said belonged to Abu Moussa's Palestine National Liberation Movement and was used as a launching pad for attacks.

The spokesman said the pilots reported direct hits on the target and all the planes returned safely.

The PNLN claimed responsibility for last week's ambush of an IDF patrol in the Jordan Valley, north of Jericho, in which three soldiers were killed and two others wounded.

The organization, headquartered in Damascus, is headed by Abu Moussa, a former colonel in Yasser Arafat's mainstream Fatah organization who broke away from the PLO in 1983.

Reports from Lebanon said the IAF warplanes fired four air-to-ground missiles at the base near Aita al-Foukhar. News agencies quoted eye witnesses as saying the explosions could be heard from the base for two hours after the attack.

The reports said an ammunition dump may have been hit by one or more of the rockets, although the PNLN issued a statement saying that a logistics office had been hit. The area itself was reported to have been sealed off by Syrian and Lebanese army troops as well as members of the PNLN.

It was the first IAF raid on targets in Lebanon since the formation of the new government and was authorized by the security cabinet in retaliation for the Jordan Valley ambush.

Last night, Prime Minister Binjamin Netanyahu said the IAF had attacked the same terror group that days earlier had attacked the IDF. Radio reported.

Meanwhile, Hizbullah continued its recent wave attacks on the South Lebanese Army yesterday. Several mortar rounds were fired at an SLA post in the western sector of the zone without causing any casualties or damage. IDF gunners returned fire.

# Taxman to call on prostitutes

RAINE MARCUS

IF the Income Tax authorities have their way, prostitutes working on the streets, from escort agencies, or at massage parlors will have to pay their dues soon.

Until now, authorities have periodically raided massage parlors and escort services together with police, but so far "working girls" have been able to avoid paying taxes on their cash. Some three years ago, tax authorities arrested several Tel Aviv escort-agency owners for tax evasion. Some reached an agreement and paid their back-taxes, while at least one owner was indicted for tax-evasion.

Ephraim Hermioni, assistant income tax commissioner in charge of investigations, said yesterday the authority would make every effort to collect the taxes during the coming weeks.

The earnings of call-girls working from offices or massage parlors are easier to check than those of street prostitutes, because business operators usually list clients and women's names. One Israeli escort service even advertises on the Internet, using graphics which include near-photographic photographs.

Regarding others, said Hermioni, officials and police have various ways of examining earnings, including checking bank accounts and the acquisition of property.

"All earnings are subject to tax payments," said Hermioni.

In other matters, over the past few weeks tax officials have also been cracking down on companies and non-profit organizations whose owners or managers failed to pay employers' taxes, which are supposed to be paid on the 15th of every month.

Some NIS 13 million in taxes were paid by Tel Aviv company owners after agreements were reached with the authorities.

# Shamir: Israel delaying Jordanian visas

AMBASSADOR to Jordan Shimon Shamir said yesterday Israel is violating its peace treaty with Amman by not granting Jordanians entry permits quickly.

"We signed a peace agreement with the Jordanians which says we will give visas to applicants within five days," Shamir told Army Radio. "We are now standing in breach of the peace agreement."

"The issue is turning into a very painful problem in the relations between Israel and Jordan," Shamir said. Shamir did not say how long it was taking on average to get a visa. He added that more than 200 visa requests flooded in daily, but that officials screening them in Israel granted permits to only a fraction of the applicants.

"People line up at our consulate at two or three in the morning with blankets. They're cold, waiting until we open, and in the end they don't get in," he said. "Yesterday... a consulate employee was struck by people who had lost their patience."

Jordanians complained that while they hosted more than 150,000 Israelis last year, it was difficult for them to receive clearance to visit Israel or the West Bank, Shamir said.

He said he could not give a figure on how many Jordanians had visited in that time, but that it was a "very much smaller number" than the number of Israelis who visited Jordan. (Reuters)

# Autopsy shows baby was not murdered

THE two-month-old baby who was brought lifeless to the emergency ward in Kiryat Shmona on Monday was not murdered by her father, according to the findings of an autopsy. Doctors and police believe suspicious signs on the baby's body were caused by the father's attempts to revive her after she slipped from his hands and drowned in the bathtub.

The father, who was arrested on Monday, will come before a Safed court today to have his remand extended, while the forensic evidence is examined to see whether there are grounds to charge him with negligence. The baby was buried last night in Kiryat Shmona. *Lim*

# PA cancels children's rights forum

JON IMMANUEL

THE Palestinian Authority canceled a multilateral preparatory conference on children's rights in Bethlehem yesterday, after the government refused to allow it to host a reception for Arab delegations in the Jerusalem hotel where they were staying. Marwan Kafani, a spokesman for PA President Yasser Arafat said.

"We canceled it, because when we had a reception at the Orient Hotel the Israelis made a fuss. So we moved to a hotel and they made a fuss about that. We will resume it when the Israelis treat us as civilized human beings and allow us to have a reception in Jerusalem," said Kafani.

Foreign diplomatic sources confirmed the Palestinian version of the incident.

Six delegations, including experts and Foreign Ministry officials from Egypt, Jordan, Tunisia, Switzerland, the US, and Israel, were

to have participated. The Egyptian and Jordanian delegations were staying at the Seven Arches Hotel on the Mount of Olives and the Palestinian Authority planned to host a reception there.

Dr. Phillip Veerman, director of the Israeli office of Defense for Children International, said Foreign Ministry officials came to the conference only to say that they would not participate in it if the reception took place in Jerusalem.

"I am concerned that a meeting on children's rights, which could have been a bridge to peace, was pulled into politics," Veerman said. The meeting is likely to be rescheduled in Geneva. The prime minister's spokesman, Shai Bazzak,

said he knew nothing of the incident. Foreign Ministry and Internal Security Ministry spokesmen could not be reached for comment.

The government has said it will not allow diplomatic meetings at Orient House, but has not mentioned hotels. A Palestinian reception for visiting delegations to a Tourism conference, held at the same hotel, was permitted under the previous government, but meetings by NGOs at Jerusalem hotels were sometimes banned.

In Gaza, meanwhile, Peace Bloc leader Uri Avnery met with Arafat and was told by the latter that he has the feeling of "a complete break" in relations with the Israeli government. Asked whether he was encouraged by his meeting with Prime Minister Binjamin Netanyahu's policy adviser, Dore Gold, Arafat said, "No."

# Moledet: Closure must not be lifted

LIAT COLLINS

MOLEDET leader Rehavim Ze'evi yesterday spoke out against the evaluation by the security forces that the closure of the territories should be lifted.

General Security Service head Ami Ayalon, OC, Central Command Maj.-Gen. Uzi Dayan, OC Southern Command, Maj.-Gen. Shlomo Yanai, and Oren Shohor, coordinator of government activities in the territories, have all recommended the closure be eased, Ha'aretz reported yesterday.

"It looks like this evaluation was ordered by and coordinated with [the government]," Ze'evi

said. "Everyone can see the closure prevents terror or at least reduces its scope. One recalls that [then] defense minister Shimon Peres ruled the closure would remain in effect until the elections. In order to prevent terror. If the government cancels the closure now, it will be responsible for the attacks that take place," Ze'evi said.

Meretz faction leader Ran Cohen said the closure should be eased, but not lifted all at once. "Hastily lifting it completely could have lethal consequences, heaven forbid," Cohen said.

He called on the government to adopt former internal security minister Moshe Shahal's plan for physical separation with supervised border crossings.

Former interior minister Haim Korman (Labor) yesterday submitted an urgent motion to the agenda demanding the government refrain from lifting the closure, saying the entry of tens of thousands of workers from the territories would pose a threat to security. AP adds: Some 250 Palestinians were allowed to visit

relatives at Megiddo Prison in the North yesterday after security arrangements were worked out between the IDF and the Red Cross, which arranged the visits.

Peter Lerner, a spokesman for the military government, said visits were expected to continue all week and visits to other prisons would begin next week. Visitors will have special passes issued by the IDF, he said.

"We understand that the visits are a necessity," he said. "But we didn't want people going on Red Cross buses and getting off on the way to the prison to go to work, or to blow themselves up."

# Netzarim fails to reach agreement over road

EVELYN GORDON

RESIDENTS of Netzarim yesterday failed to okay an arrangement proposed by the army regarding Palestinian traffic on the road past the settlement, but are deferring any sanctions until another meeting with OC Southern Command Maj.-Gen. Shlomo Yanai later this week.

The argument is over the army's decision last week to open the road past the settlement to Palestinian policemen. The road, which passes some 20 meters from Netzarim, had been closed to Palestinians for the previous 18 months following a wave of terror attacks committed on it. Residents charge that opening it again constitutes a security danger to them. They therefore blocked the road in protest for two days last week, but called off sanctions just before Shabbat after reaching a tempo-

rary compromise with the army. Representatives of the settlement met with Yanai in Tel Aviv on Monday to discuss a more permanent arrangement, and left the meeting saying it had been very positive. However, at a meeting of the entire settlement which lasted into the early hours of yesterday morning, the residents declined to approve the army's proposal.

At the same time, however, they also decided not to reject it entirely and reopen sanctions, following a promise by Yanai to come to Netzarim and meet with the residents later this week. Yanai's visit will give residents a chance to air their concerns and Yanai a chance to explain how his proposal would meet these concerns.

Neither the residents nor the army would divulge details of Yanai's proposal. The temporary compromise reached before Shabbat had been that no more than one Palestinian vehicle every two hours would be allowed on the road.

# Operators of Dutch Ecstasy lab sentenced

RAINE MARCUS

THREE Tel Aviv men were given seven-year sentences by Tel Aviv District Court yesterday for their part in setting up a large-scale Ecstasy manufacturing laboratory in Hofland.

Chemist Yitzhak Bekel, Noah Fein, and Yehzekiel Serbero were arrested in September 1994, and admitted to conspiracy to manufacture and distribute illicit drugs.

The laboratory was discovered by Israeli and Dutch detectives after a lengthy undercover investigation. The raid was conducted prematurely after an explosion caused by a "work accident" caused police to arrive on the scene.

The factory was equipped to manufacture millions of Ecstasy pills daily, intended for distribution worldwide.

Some of those involved were arrested in Holland and others were detained in Israel. Fein escaped to Belgium and was arrested later. One suspect, Yitzhak Mizrahi, committed suicide in prison in Holland while awaiting extradition. Another, Mordechai Hirsch of the Nadvornaya hassidic sect has denied all connection to the laboratory and his trial is continuing.

The court heard that Bekel was promised 50 cents for each pill he manufactured - but the plan was aborted with the explosion and subsequent arrests. Several people here were to try out the drug until the perfect formula was reached, the prosecution said.

In sentencing, Judge Avraham Baizer said the three bear criminal responsibility for manufacturing drugs which have become a worldwide epidemic.

# Syria: Israel trying to kill peace process

DAMASCUS (Reuters) - Syria yesterday said it was seeking regional support to confront the new Israeli government which "aims to assassinate the Middle East peace process."

"Israel, under the leadership of the extreme right, headed by [Prime Minister Binjamin] Netanyahu, does not hide its intentions of exploding the Middle East anew and on the widest scale to achieve its announced goal, assassinating the peace process," ruling Baath party newspaper al-Baath said.

The official press said the aim of Syrian mediation between Iran and Bahrain was to gather regional support to confront hard-line Israeli policies which reject the handing back of Arab lands for peace.

"The attacks by Israel and its supporters which the region is witnessing leave its countries with a sole option, to mass all abilities and powers to face these dangerous challenges which threaten their existence," al-Baath said.

# SEPARATION

(Continued from Page 1)

between us and them in the places where it serves us," Kahalani said. Separation is the best way to prevent the infiltration of terrorists from the territories, he said.

Since taking office, Kahalani has spoken out several times in favor of separation, although he has yet to present a detailed plan of how it should be implemented. He said he agreed in principle with plan of his predecessor, Shahal.

"[Shahal's separation plan] was not implemented, because of a lack of funding," according to Kahalani. "It was not implemented, because of concern for creating facts on the ground that would have diplomatic implications," which is also a concern of the government, Kahalani said.

# BUDGET CUT

(Continued from Page 1)

reiterated that he envisages no tax increases as a result.

Netanyahu, speaking yesterday afternoon to the Foreign Press Association at the Prime Minister's Office, suggested that the brunt of budget cuts could come from the "less significant" aspects of defense and social welfare. A rumored prime target for defense cuts includes delaying an expected raise for career officers.

He declared a "sweeping liberalization policy for the Israeli economy. Israel has had incremental structural reforms since 1986... We intend to do a lot more in a compressed time. It is privatization and liberalization and deregulation, especially the deregulation program, that will bring the economic growth that I envision," he said.

Before his election, Netanyahu pledged to privatize 50 of the 160 government-owned companies over the next four years.

To drive home his point about how little has been done on the topic of government deregulation, he said that, so far, no Hebrew term has been found to describe the concept.

Meanwhile, economic officials say the government deficit is much higher than reported, running at 10% of the gross national product or an estimated \$8 billion.

The detailed proposals for 1997 include: setting the domestic deficit without credit dispensation at 2% of GDP; setting the total deficit without credit dispensation at 2.8% of GDP; setting government revenue at NIS 137.3 billion; expenditure not to exceed NIS 146.6 billion. The cabinet also agreed a law should be passed paving the way for reducing the deficit between 1997 and 2001, with the following yearly figures: the 1997 deficit must not exceed 2.8% of GDP; in 1998, the target will be 2.4%; in 1999, the maximum rate will be set at 2%; 1.75% will be the maximum in the year 2000; by 2001 the balance of payments deficit must be no more than 1.5% of GDP. While supporting the Finance Ministry proposals, Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharanasky stressed the importance of research and devel-

## SOCIAL & PERSONAL

THE WEEKLY MEETING of the English-speaking Jerusalem Rotary Club will take place tonight at 7:30 p.m. at Beit Shalom, 6 Shimon St. Gala champagne dinner.

The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee and JDC-Israel deeply mourn the death of **HAROLD TROBE** First director of JDC-Israel, a man of vision. May his memory be a blessing.

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We extend our deepest condolences to Calvin Delano and the Turgeman family on the death of **YA'ACOV TURGEMAN** who was killed in action in the Jordan Valley. Your colleagues at the School of Chemistry of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem

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Dr. Mizrahi

# Man stabs former girlfriend to death

A JERUSALEM man stabbed his ex-girlfriend to death and lightly injured her sister, on the street near their Neveh Ya'acov home yesterday afternoon. He then turned himself in to the police.

Hanna Yacovov, 24, who was stabbed several times, was pronounced dead at Hadassah-University Hospital at Ein Kerem. Sonya Yacovov, 28, was reported in satisfactory condition at the hospital, with a stab wound to her hand.

Sasson Mizrahi, 28, had waited at their bus stop for the sisters to return from work. Witnesses said Mizrahi first attacked his ex-girlfriend and then ran after the sister.

"I saw him stab her three times and she fell down, and then he ran off after the other girl," said Etti Oz. "At first I thought it was a terror attack. Everyone was screaming, and I also fled," Oz said.

### BILL HUTMAN

Mizrahi caught up to the sister and stabbed her once, then flagged down a passing vehicle - the driver of which apparently had not seen the stabbings - and asked to be taken to the police station.

Mizrahi arrived at the Neveh Ya'acov police station just as police were rushing out, after receiving calls about the incident. "I stabbed her, I stabbed her," Mizrahi called out, and was promptly arrested.

Mizrahi, also from Jerusalem, told detectives he was angry with Hanna Yacovov for rejecting a marriage proposal. There had apparently been several fights between Mizrahi and the woman's brother after the break-up.

On hearing about the stabbings, their brother and father went into

shock and had to be hospitalized. Police said the family immigrated several years ago from one of the former Soviet republics.

Mizrahi said he originally planned to shoot his ex-girlfriend, using the weapon he was to be issued earlier in the day when he reported for army reserve duty. He was not taken in for service, however, so he was forced to alter the plan.

In need of a weapon, Mizrahi told investigators he purchased a kitchen knife at the Mahane Yehuda market and then drove to Neveh Ya'acov to wait for his ex-girlfriend to return. The sisters worked at a factory in the Aharot industrial zone.

Police sources said Mizrahi is cooperating with investigators and was expected to reenact the stabbings last night.



British rock star David Bowie waves after landing in his private plane at Sde Dov Airport yesterday. Bowie will appear tonight in Tel Aviv. (Ailon Ron/Israel Sun)

## Peretz to demand Meridor intervene in Turkish plane deal

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

HISTADRUT Chairman MK Amir Peretz will demand Finance Minister Dan Meridor's personal and immediate intervention to save the TAAS-Israel Industries commercial contract to upgrade F-4 warplanes for the Turkish air force.

The contract will be one of the focuses of Peretz's meeting with Meridor today, which was called to discuss the government's economic program.

TAAS union leaders told Peretz yesterday that the \$600 million project is being held up and may collapse, because the banks are holding up the required \$40m. loan guarantees.

TAAS union chairman Haim Katz said the banks keep making new demands of the Treasury,

which is not responding promptly. He charged that red tape is "torpedoing the deal and holding up the financing proposal the banks were supposed to send the Turkish Treasury. The Turks are eager to go ahead with the deal, but it's stuck and may be lost."

Katz said the banks' bureaucratic demands are threatening projects worth up to \$1 billion in the coming year, by holding up guarantees of tens of millions of dollars.

"Every time we lose such a giant international project, it signals to the rest of the world that it is not worthwhile to engage in similar joint projects with us. And then the government will say that TAAS is collapsing because of the workers," Peretz said.

## Netanyahu visits Arab namesake

A couple from the Moslem Village of Majd el-Kurum near Karmiel have named their daughter Sara, after the wife of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. The father, Sa'ud Man'a, 51, is a member of the Likud central committee. He said the decision to name the baby after the prime minister or his wife had been taken before the outcome of the elections was known. Sara Netanyahu, who visited her namesake yesterday, said she was "very moved and very happy."

## Four killed on Northern roads

DAVID RUDGE

THE carnage on the roads continued yesterday, with four people killed in the North in less than 24 hours.

A father and his five-year old son died and three other people were badly hurt when two cars collided on the Safed-Meron road in the Galilee yesterday evening.

Magen David Adom paramedics helped resuscitate the youngster and he was put on a respirator, but later died of his injuries. The

rest of the injured were taken to Safed's Rebecca Sieff Hospital.

Police said it appears the accident occurred when one of the cars swerved out of its lane and crashed head-on into the oncoming vehicle. The road was closed for several hours as a result.

In the morning, a car crashed into a tree

between Kibbutz Sde Eliyahu and Kibbutz Tirat Zvi in the Beit She'an Valley region, killing the driver.

Police said the driver, aged 34, from Sde Trumot, had apparently been traveling at high speed.

Meanwhile, a jeep driver who was badly injured in an accident near Kibbutz Ramot Menashe on Monday night died of his injuries in Haifa's Rambam Hospital yesterday.

## Jordanian fitted with prosthesis here

JUDY SIEGEL

A 25-year-old deaf and mute Jordanian woman who lost her leg in a road accident has been brought to Tel Hashomer's Sheba Hospital for rehabilitation at the intercession of King Hussein.

Sheba said the Israeli Embassy in Jordan received a request from the king to help the young woman.

Ahla Kharisat lost her mother at the age of two. Her father remarried and sent her to an institution. The girl was then run over by a car and her leg was damaged. During efforts to save the leg, her hearing was damaged. Finally, surgeons had to amputate the leg from below the knee. They later tried to suit the stump to a prosthesis, but without success.

The woman arrived at Sheba recently, accompanied by a clergyman who is administrative director of the orphanage where she lives. She underwent successful surgery and will soon be trained to walk on an artificial leg. She intends to travel to the US when she is mobile and study speech therapy to help other people like her, the hospital said.

## Two rapists get stiff prison terms

TWO rapists received stiff prison terms yesterday. A youth who raped an 11-year-old, who subsequently became pregnant, was sentenced yesterday to eight years' imprisonment and two years' probation by the Tel Aviv District Court.

In Beersheva District Court, Yossi Ohanona, 34, was sentenced to eight years' imprisonment for raping his 17-year-old girlfriend several times over two months, and threatening to kill members of her family and blow up her house.

The first incident occurred last September, when the youth, who was on a furlough from Tel Mond Prison, met the girl at a kiosk and invited her to a party. He told the judge the girl had told him she was 14.

After the party, while walking the girl home, he raped her.

The girl's mother did not report the rape at first. But when the girl learned she was pregnant and applied to get an abortion, the family was told an abortion could not be performed unless they pressed charges.

In the Beersheva case, Ohanona, who had met the girl last August, began threatening her when she told him she no longer wanted to see him, after they had gone out for a month. He told her that if she did not continue to see him, he would beat all her family members and blow up their house with a grenade.

She agreed to continue seeing him, but he then began to abuse her and raped her several times. After two months of this, she complained to police and Ohanona was arrested. (Itm)

### NEWS IN BRIEF

**Leviner released from jail**  
Rabbi Meir Leviner, 67, was released from jail yesterday after the police found no evidence for a charge of sexual harassment against him. He had been held for 10 days.

**Air traffic slips due to heavy fog**  
Heavy fog in the morning caused a number of flight cancellations and delays at Ben Gurion International Airport.

**Woman's body found**  
A woman's body was found in a field near the town of Be'er Sheva. The police are investigating the circumstances of the death.

**Carjacking in Be'er Sheva**  
A carjacking took place in Be'er Sheva yesterday. The driver was held and the car was driven away. The police are searching for the car.

**ATM robbery in Tel Aviv**  
An ATM was robbed in Tel Aviv yesterday. The thief took cash and fled. The police are searching for the thief.

**Forest fire in Beit She'an**  
A forest fire broke out in the Beit She'an region yesterday. Firefighters are working to contain the fire.

**Shavit Prize awarded**  
The Shavit Prize for the best Hebrew novel was awarded to a young author.

**Beersheva water manager leaving**  
The water manager of Beersheva is leaving his post. A search for a replacement is underway.

## israel electric חברת החשמל

### TENDERS

The Israel Electric Corporation wishes to purchase the following goods and services:

Tender no.	Description	Cost of tender documents inc. VAT (unrefundable)
553797	Connectors for electric wires Stage A - Submission of technical/commercial details, without prices. The supply agreement will be valid for two years, with an option to extend for an additional year under the same terms, according to the discretion of the Electric Corporation. This option may be exercised by the Electric Corporation at any time during the period of the supply agreement. The preconditions of this tender are as follows: 1. Proof from the Israel Standards Institute that all components in the bid comply with specifications. Regarding components manufactured abroad, the supplier must submit proof of compliance with foreign specifications as well as a letter from the Israel Standards Institute verifying that the item complies with Israeli standards as well as details of the checking process of items manufactured abroad according to Israeli specifications. 2. Proof that the items have been analysed as set out by the specifications. The analysis must be in relation to all the requirements included in the specifications and must include full details of the results of the analysis. 3. Proof of quality control within the factory according to the ISO 9000/2000 specifications, the minimum standard for specification ISO 9002/2002. The Israel Electric Corporation reserves the right not to consider bids which do not contain the required technical material, and to update the tender documents when progressing to Stage B.	NIS 1,755
Last date for submitting bids: August 4, 1996, at 11 a.m.		
549380	Steel cable trays and support system for the Rottenberg B power station Stage A - Submission of technical/commercial details, without prices. Specification CE-55800 The preconditions of this tender are as follows: 1. The bidder must be able to offer the entire cable trays system, including all the components, accessories and materials needed for the erection, according to the time schedule and the quantities required in the specification. This confirmation must be included in the bidder's offer. 2. The manufacturer of the offered products must be certified with a quality control system, according to the standards series ISO-9003 for those products required in the specification. 3. All the components, accessories and materials offered by the bidder must be of current production and must be contained in its product catalogue pertaining to this product, according to the specification. 4. The bidder must submit type test certificates for the offered products. The type test must be carried out by an independent, internationally recognized authority according to an internationally recognized standard, as stated in the specifications.	NIS 1,755
Last date for submitting bids: August 18, 1996, at 11 a.m.		

**CONDITIONS APPLYING TO THE SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS:**

- A guarantee of 5% of the bid total, in the form of a private check, should be attached to the bid, except for tenders requesting technical information only (Stage A).
- Participation in a tender is also subject to complying with the preliminary conditions detailed in the Tender Regulations 1993, Para. 6(a) 1, 2, 3 (i.e., registration as required by law, compliance with mandatory specifications, and the holding of the permits required by law for businesses).
- The Electric Corporation reserves the right to allow a bidder who has not submitted relevant documents, permits, licenses etc. to submit them within a specified time to be determined by the Corporation.

The tender documents may be obtained Sunday - Thursday, between 9 a.m. and 12 noon, from the Market Research and Tenders Dept., 11 Sderot Pti-Yam, Haifa, on submission of a receipt, demonstrating payment (non-refundable) of the cost of the documents into the Corporation's account at the Postal Bank. Payment slips for making such payments are obtainable at the above address (Tel. 04-8615466/4). Before purchasing the tender documents, they may be perused on Sunday - Thursday, 9 a.m. - 12 noon, at the offices of the Market Research and Tenders Dept. at the above address, and at the Sales Unit, 90 Rehov Yigal Alon, Tel Aviv, Ashdod Building, Entrance B, Floor 1, Tel. 03-5654679, 03-5654641.

Bids should be submitted in a sealed envelope, and be placed in Tenders Box No. 1, in the Pti-Yam building, Haifa (address as above) by the last date for submitting bids, as stated above.

No undertaking is given to accept the lowest or any bid.

NOTE: In appropriate cases, the Electric Corporation will give preference to suppliers, in accordance with the Tender Regulations (Preference for Locally Produced Goods, and Obligation to Extend Commercial Cooperation). The Electric Corporation retains the right to negotiate, where this is legally permissible.

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Gonchigdorj, Chairman of the Mongolian Social Democratic Party is mobbed by supporters outside their headquarters after voters gave his party an unexpected 48 seats in parliament in Ulan Bator. The Social Democratic victory toppled the ruling former communists after 70 years in power.

## Hunter's encounter helped expose US paramilitaries

PHOENIX (AP) — A hunter's chance encounter with camouflaged men carrying guns led to the downfall of an anti-government paramilitary group called the "Viper Militia" that is accused of plotting to blow up government buildings.

Thirteen people were arrested and a search was continuing yesterday morning, John Magaw, director of the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, said yesterday on ABC's "Good Morning America." Earlier, officials had said 12 people had been arrested Monday.

"I believe that will be all... that's the primary people that we're interested in now," Magaw said.

Group members were charged with planning to bomb buildings that housed the FBI and other federal agencies that symbolized the government they hated for what had happened at Ruby Ridge, Idaho, and Waco, Texas.

One search remains to be completed, Magaw said, because work was halted when investigators discovered picric acid, a substance he said was used in grenades during World War II. Because it is dangerous, it was decided to wait for daylight to continue the

search.

"Terrorism has come to the United States," Magaw said. "Do not forget for one minute the Oklahoma City bombing." Asked if there was any connection between the Phoenix group and the Oklahoma bombing, he said, "not at this time."

When the camouflaged men confronted the hunter in the remote Tonto National Forest last November and told him to stay off a service road, he went to police.

Instead of moving in, authorities decided to get inside. A state law enforcement officer went undercover and became a member after the group took an oath to kill anyone trying to infiltrate.

What the undercover officer learned was revealed in an indictment yesterday. The documents tell of training videos showing government buildings, their security features and the best places to put explosives to bring the buildings down.

Ten men and two women were arrested in a series of raids in suburban Phoenix. Neighbors were evacuated and homes cordoned off while helmeted federal agents searched suspects' homes.

Neighbor Ellen Daniel stood in

her front yard and watched as suspected explosives were removed from suspect Gary Bauer's home.

"We left New York City to get away from crime," she said.

Another neighbor, Mable Epperson, said she frequently saw people coming in and out of Bauer's house in camouflage. A Jeep painted in camouflage colors often was parked in the driveway.

"I just thought they were going hunting," she said.

Attorney General Janet Reno said something much more insidious was going on.

She said the suspects plotted to use explosives to destroy buildings housing the FBI, the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, the Internal Revenue Service, the Immigration and Naturalization Service, the Secret Service, and even a local TV station.

A May 1994 videotape allegedly made by the group features a member discussing security measures, communications equipment and other features of the targeted buildings.

"The voice-over on the videotape gives advice on how to actually collapse the buildings," US Attorney Janet Napolitano said.

## Russia's Lebed wants more powers

News agencies  
MOSCOW

KREMLIN strongman Alexander Lebed, projecting a vigorous image on the eve of the election as his patron Boris Yeltsin tried to shake off illness, asked yesterday for new powers to tackle Russia's security problems.

The tough-talking retired paratrooper general, outlining a wide range of security responsibilities, announced tighter visa requirements for foreigners, stiffer punishment for criminals in organized crime and a crackdown on high-level corruption.

"Our country is huge and very varied. Problems have to be solved for the sake of the future and for that I need additional powers," Lebed declared at a news conference.

Lebed, brought into the Kremlin by Yeltsin after performing strongly himself in first-round voting on June 16, denied Russian media allegations of being power-hungry.

"I don't want power for power's sake. I am not a monster... I am a human being," the 46-year-old Lebed said.

Though Lebed did not refer to Wednesday's election showdown between Yeltsin and communist Gennady Zyuganov, his image as a man eager to get down to work kept the flag flying for his patron who was again absent from the public eye on Tuesday.

The 65-year-old Kremlin leader has not been

seen in public for a week and a stilted, pre-recorded television appearance has done little to persuade the world that he is well.

Only foreigners dare ask for details when a Russian president with a history of heart problems disappears from public view and aides say he has lost his voice.

Most Russians accept unquestioningly that the Kremlin leader's state of health is treated as a state secret.

After President Boris Yeltsin failed to turn up at an official event in Moscow last week, his communist challenger in today's presidential election runoff demanded to see a formal health report. It remained a voice in the wilderness.

"Comrade, your health does not belong to you. It is state and party property, which is valuable at that," a Soviet-era textbook quoted Soviet state founder Vladimir Lenin as telling one of his ministers.

For most of Russia's history its leaders have not been elected. To keep the huge country under strict control they had to rule from a "fortress covered by a veil of mystery and fear," as a 19th century historian once wrote.

It was unclear exactly what extra powers

Lebed was calling for. He told state ORT television late last Friday that he was a "typical strong man and I look more like a vice-president."

But he later denied saying he wanted such a post.

Lebed, who holds the post of secretary of the Security Council and is Yeltsin's national security adviser, struck a nationalist tone yesterday. Using the no-nonsense language which is his trademark, he refused to retreat from hard-line comments about malign foreign influences and activities of foreign religious sects in Russia.

Declaring that visa regulations would be tightened up for entry into Russia from abroad, he said many people were coming to Russia and taking "a lot out with them."

"We are not talking about creating a new Iron Curtain and closing the country. But the country must defend itself in a civilized way."

Lebed, who referred last week to the US-biased Mormon religion as "filth", repeated his opposition to the activities of religious sects in Russia.

Mormonism is a major US faith that is active in Russia and Lebed's comments produced outrage in the United States and criticism from President Bill Clinton.

## First Lady says Holocaust must not be forgotten

OSWIECIM, Poland (AP) — A grim-faced Hillary Rodham Clinton, touring the death camps of Auschwitz yesterday, called the Holocaust a "terrible part of human history" and warned that the evils of intolerance still lurk.

"The lessons of this place should never be forgotten," Mrs. Clinton said while standing outside a red-bricked barracks that housed some of the 1.5 million Holocaust victims killed by Nazis in Auschwitz.

The American first lady arrived in Poland from Bucharest, Romania, on the second day of an 11-day tour of seven European nations.

Visibly shaken, Mrs. Clinton viewed ghastly exhibits of human hair, shoes and clothing left behind by Adolf Hitler's victims.

Asked to put her feelings into words, Mrs. Clinton shook her head, shrugged and said, "I just can't. It's overwhelming."

She said the intolerance, prejudice and evil that led to the World

War II exterminations of Jews still exist, though on a smaller scale.

"You can look at what happened in the former Yugoslavia and you can find some of the same words being used, some of the same justifications for ethnic cleansing," Mrs. Clinton said.

And America is not immune from the dangers of intolerance, she said. "We have to stand against church burnings in our own South in order to make a statement against those who would deny the humanity and rights of others based on their race," Mrs. Clinton said.

"I worry a lot about the forces of evil that are unleashed often by people who are attempting to profit in many ways, politically or otherwise."

The first lady said the United States and its allies could have done more to stop the Holocaust, but she acknowledged that the horrors were "too great to be believed at the time."

"I don't think anybody did enough. I don't think our country did enough when we began to get more and more reports" of the genocide, Mrs. Clinton told reporters an hour into the tour.

"But I think it was difficult to do anything once the war started, other than to win the war."

But she had harsh words for people today who still doubt Hitler's master plan to exterminate Jews and other perceived enemies of Germany.

"I find it unbelievable that there would be people today who would try to deny this terrible part of human history," said the first lady, who toured with Poland's first lady, Yolanta Kwasniewska. "This was cold, rational evil," Mrs. Clinton said.

Earlier in Bucharest, Mrs. Clinton said the fear and indignity of the Romanian women interned under the Communist regime will take time to disappear. She feared a form of non-government organizations.

## Margaux Hemingway found dead

SANTA MONICA (AP) — Margaux Hemingway, the model-turned-actress and troubled granddaughter of Ernest Hemingway, was found dead in her seaside apartment.

The death did not appear to be a suicide and there was no sign of forced entry or foul play, police said.

"At this point we're not sure what happened to her," coroner's spokesman Fred Corral said. An autopsy was expected today.

The 41-year-old Hemingway, who moved into the second-floor apartment a few weeks ago, had not been seen by friends or neighbors since Saturday. A friend, concerned that Hemingway hadn't returned her phone calls, climbed a ladder to peek through the window and saw the body on a bed.

Coroner's officials identified the body by information from relatives, identification Hemingway had on her and a description of recent dental work, Corral said.

Hemingway was a supermodel

in the 1970s, gracing the cover of Vogue, People and Time magazines and making headlines with a \$1 million contract to promote Faberge's "Babe" perfume. The blonde made her movie debut in "Lipstick" in 1976, opposite younger sister Mariel, and appeared in several other movies, while also struggling with alcoholism and bulimia.

Hemingway's agent, David Mirisch, told the Hollywood Reporter and CNN on Monday that she had recently finished shooting *The Wild Geese*, a nature show for which she was the host for the Westinghouse Broadcasting Group.

"For the past week or 10 days, she hasn't really been the Margaux Hemingway that we all knew as far as having that 'np' personality," Mirisch told CNN. "We really felt this series was going to bring her back."

Judy Stabile, the friend who went to Hemingway's apartment, said the actress had long overcome her much-publicized problems with alcohol and

bulimia. Hemingway was treated at the Betty Ford Center in 1988.

"She doesn't do that stuff. She doesn't drink," she said.

Alcoholism and early deaths have plagued the Hemingway clan.

For Ernest Hemingway, one of the most widely read American novelists of the 20th century, boozing and physical trauma led to depression, electroshock therapy and a final mental collapse. He shot himself to death on July 2, 1961, 35 years ago yesterday. His brother, sister and father also killed themselves.

Margaux Hemingway was born in Portland, Oregon, in 1955 to John Hadley "Jack" Hemingway and Byra L. "Puck" Hemingway. She left her Ketchum, Idaho, home for New York City in 1974. Hemingway was married and divorced twice. She was married to her first husband, Errol Wetson, for less than a year. Her marriage to Bernard Foucher lasted 11 years.

## US: Karadzic's departure only a first step toward Dayton

WASHINGTON (AP) — Even if the United States succeeds in its quest to drive Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic from power, US officials see it as only a small, tentative step toward Bosnian Serb compliance with the Dayton peace accords.

The US wants a different government with different policies, a senior official said after the administration ruefully concluded that Karadzic's promises to step down were really a hoax.

The departure of Karadzic for the Netherlands to be tried for war crimes by a UN tribunal, the official said, would be a welcome but insufficient step toward fulfilling the goal of a unified, democratic Bosnia, with the three main ethnic groups living in harmony.

The official, asking not to be identified, didn't hold out much hope that Karadzic would step down merely because he signed a paper on Sunday promising to do so.

The official did not rule out the possibility that more moderate Bosnian Serbs can displace the hard-liners and begin making peace with their fellow Bosnians under the Dayton accords.

The one card that the United States and its European allies have for deposing Karadzic is to reimpose sanctions against Serbia because Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic has failed to dislodge him from power despite heavy US diplomatic pressure.

State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said sanctions against Serbia are a "distinct possibility" but suggested they were not imminent.

Burns ridiculed the purported resignation Sunday by Karadzic. "This outcome is not going to convince anybody that Karadzic has taken the steps that everyone in the international community is now demanding," he said.

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Tour guide: NAOMI MILLER
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NIS 170 (including lunch).  
Tour guide: MOTTI AVIAM

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## Menendez brothers get life without parole

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Lyle and Erik Menendez were sentenced yesterday to life in prison without possibility of parole nearly seven years after they killed their wealthy parents in a salvo of shotgun blasts.

In a hearing devoid of the emotion that wracked the brothers' trial, Superior Court Judge Stanley Weisberg calmly pronounced the sentence and said he believed they carefully considered whether to kill one or both parents — and decided to kill both.

For that reason, he said, each brother was sentenced to two consecutive life sentences. Weisberg also sentenced each brother to 25 years to life for conspiracy.

"Each defendant has a right to appeal this judgment of this court," Weisberg said.

The defendants showed no reaction in the hushed courtroom. Their relatives and friends remained silent.

## Ukraine tram derailment kills 30

KIEV (Reuters) — A tram ran off the rails and hit a concrete barrier in an eastern Ukrainian city on yesterday, killing about 30 people and injuring 50, Interfax-Ukraine news agency reported.

The agency quoted the former Soviet republic's interior ministry as saying the tram derailed at about 6 p.m. in the industrial city of Dniprodzerzhinsk. The cause of the accident was being investigated.

Interfax said the tram was travelling down a steep slope when the accident occurred.

President Leonid Kuchma proclaimed today one of mourning.

He also ordered the cancellation of all events scheduled for Wednesday to commemorate the approval by parliament last week of Ukraine's first post-Soviet constitution.

Handwritten text: *July 3 1996*



# Deal-makers keep a wary step ahead of peacemakers

SINCE the Gulf war, the parade of foreign dignitaries and businesspeople through Israel has been without precedent for such a small country.

The breaching of the barricades was brought about by three main factors - the reversal of Russian and East European policy with the fall of Communism, the start of the peace process in Madrid and Oslo, and the consequent easing of the Arab boycott against firms doing business in Israel.

In the past, the nonaligned Third World and the Organization of African Unity had joined forces with Communist, Islamic and Arab blocs (Egypt excepted) to deny Israel diplomatic, economic or cultural recognition.

Today, the rejectionist Arab states, plus Iran (and to a diminishing extent Pakistan and Indonesia) are virtually alone in shunning Israel. Formerly unfriendly Malaysia said in January it is normalizing trade relations.

The most significant breakthrough has been the crumbling of united Arab rejection - and the biggest worry posed by the recent Arab League summit was that it could yet be reinstated.

Yet despite much hard-line Arab rhetoric against Benjamin Netanyahu's new government, most states refused Syria's urging

to halt their normalization, and there was little enthusiasm for reactivating the Arab boycott office in Damascus.

The regional trade and tourism which began to accelerate in step with the new peace agreements was not entirely new.

All Middle East experts have known for years of Israeli products being traded through third countries, from citrus repackaging in Cyprus for Saudi Arabia and the Gulf to agricultural machinery, finding its way to Arab states.

Increased contact has brought the Arabs a link into Israel's marketing networks in the West, and Israel has gained slow acceptance as part of the Middle East scene.

THE commercial fallout from the diplomatic developments falls into four main categories:

Israel has fully normalized relations, made treaties, or has partial agreements, with five of its immediate neighbors - Egypt, Jordan, the Palestinians, Turkey and Cyprus.

At the forefront of the deal-making, Israel and Egypt are building a 100,000-barrels-a-day oil refinery near Alexandria, partially financed with \$300 million from the European Investment Bank. This year Egypt is expected to agree to supply Israel with 7 million cubic meters of natural

gas a day.

The deal will also include supplies to the Palestinian Authority and Jordan. Agip, Amoco, and Egypt Gas are working on a 250km. gas pipeline across the Sinai.

Egypt, Israel, Jordan and the Palestinians have also been negotiating to link their power grids, develop Red Sea tourism and set up economic zones for joint manufacturing. The projects are estimated at more than \$1 billion.

Tourism packages are now in place or being developed that include Cairo, the Nile, Sinai, Jordan's ancient sites, Jerusalem, and the "triple" resorts - Eilat, Akaba and Taba. Israel and Jordan have agreed to a joint venture on the Dead Sea's eastern shore. The \$1.5 billion project aims to produce 25,000 tons of potash a year. Jordanian factories are already producing clothes for export through Israel.

At the next level, Israel has established low-key diplomatic relations and trade with Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Tunisia, and Mauritania. (Mauritania became the third Arab country after Egypt and Jordan to establish full diplomatic relations last year, but its economic remoteness places it in this category.)

Oman has been one of the most forthright in speaking out for trade with Israel. Its foreign minister,

**BACKGROUND**  
**THOMAS O'DWYER**

Yousef bin Alawi, has said publicly now is the time for business, while diplomacy can wait until all formal treaties are negotiated.

"There is no difference between selling directly to Israel or doing it through a hidden party," he was quoted as saying recently. "We cannot remain forever prisoners of the past."

The Enron Corporation of Houston, Texas has drafted a deal to supply Israel with natural gas from Qatar's vast gas fields. Starting from the year 2000, Qatar would sell five million tons a year to Israel for 25 years at a currently estimated cost of \$5.5b.

Morocco, Tunisia, Oman and Qatar have set up or are establishing mutual trade or interest centers with Israel.

Further down the line, Israel has made some contacts, but has no deals or overt trade with Syria, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Algeria. A peace treaty with Syria would undoubtedly move the majority of these states up into the "normalized" categories.

At the bottom of the list come the region's anti-Western "no

peacemakers" - Iran, Iraq, Libya and Sudan, who remain virulently hostile and dedicated to Israel's destruction. They will change only if they change their regimes.

THIS IS not to say there is no hostility among those already doing business with Israel and the sensitivity of new partnerships still means that many deals are done in secrecy - media inquiries are not welcome. Top Arab businessmen may be more interested in profits than politics, but they are careful not to get too many steps ahead of domestic public opinion. In most Arab states this has been formed by decades of hostile anti-Zionist propaganda and changes slowly.

The peace with Egypt has for long been called a "cold peace" because most Egyptians have failed to change their deep-seated dislike of Israel, and while Israeli tourists have flocked to Egypt, it remains socially unacceptable for most Egyptians to come here.

Nonetheless, Israeli exports to Egypt have jumped threefold to \$30m. a year since 1993 and imports quadrupled to \$47m.

Arab businessmen privately admit that with Israel setting up textile and other operations in their states, attracted by low-cost labor, Arabs gain much-needed jobs and learn Israeli expertise.

With much undercover and third-country trading still going on, it is difficult to gather reliable statistics. The Foreign Ministry and chambers of commerce cooperate where necessary in protecting Arab businessmen and officials requiring confidentiality.

Oded Eran, the director of the economic department at the Foreign Ministry, recently predicted that Israeli trade with Arab states could reach \$1.5b. annually by the end of the century. The current level is around a tenth of that.

Of course there are major differences between the economies of the Middle East. There are the poorer areas - Egypt, Jordan and Syria; the oil-rich areas - Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates; and industrialized, democratic Israel. Per-capita GDP in Kuwait is still 20 times that of Egypt, and Israel's is 10 times greater than Jordan's.

GROWTH too is very patchy. Syria, Tunisia, Morocco and Jordan have achieved rapid growth thanks to increased investment and an easing of some government controls. Kuwait is seeing accelerated growth spurred by reconstruction after liberation from the Iraqi invaders.

But oil exporters like Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Qatar have

experienced negative growth because of the decline in the price of oil - virtually the only commodity they produce and sell.

Israel, with a relatively high, export-driven growth, is again the odd one out, as in so many other ways. The main difference is that it is not sensitive to major economic trends which affect the region. But changes in the political atmosphere can have profound economic consequences - what businessman does not remember the commercially bleak days of the Gulf war?

Foreign debt is one of the more reliable economic indicators in the region. Some Middle Easterners (not surprisingly, the poorer ones) have worrying levels of debt, either in straight sums, or as a percentage of GDP - 100 percent for Jordan and Syria and 92 percent for Egypt (even with the cancellation of a large part of its debt by the US). No matter how successful, or unsuccessful, the new government is in pushing forward Israel's trade relations with its neighbors, the possibilities will remain limited until most Arab states put their creaking economic houses in order. Neither would a little democracy come amiss on the brink of the 21st century. A New Middle East, à la the New Europe, remains a dream as distant as colonizing Mars.



Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak talks with his French counterpart Jacques Chirac during a meeting at the Elysee Palace on Monday. Mubarak was in France for a day-long visit to discuss the Middle East peace process. (Reuters)

## Palestinians' closest ally: Egypt or Jordan?

THE meeting between Dr. Dore Gold and PA head Yasser Arafat can be considered a small victory for the Palestinian leader.

Until now, the conventional wisdom was that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's new government would not regard Arafat as a desirable strategic partner. Netanyahu's previous hints of returning to the "Madrid formula" were read as indicating a possible move to replace the old PLO by Madrid-delegation Palestinians - negotiators from the territories like Faisal Husseini and Dr. Hanan Ashrawi. It is not clear if Gold's meeting indicates a shift in the government's emphasis.

From its inception, the government has had the pretense to disengage from Arafat if the PA does not cooperate on fighting Hamas, and if the PA does not agree to change the Hebron redeployment plan.

Arafat holds the keys in both cases. His people, namely the preventive-security apparatus of Mohammed Dahlan and Jibril Rajoub, are in charge of combating Hamas and other terrorists.

On Hebron, Arafat is sure to spike all efforts to change the agreement if he perceives that he is being bypassed, even if by his No. 2, Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen).

However, President Clinton has developed warm relations with

**ANALYSIS**  
**PINHAS INBARI**

Arafat, a fact that must be taken into serious consideration by the new government.

Another consideration arises from an important development at the recent Arab League summit in Cairo on the Palestinian question. The resolution supporting the establishment of a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital notwithstanding, the summit deviated from its traditional path when it mentioned only the need for a full withdrawal...

To where? It was not defined.

This phrasing is significant in light of the withdrawal requested of Israel on other fronts - to the June 4, 1967 border with Syria, and to the recognized international border with Lebanon.

THE QUESTION is, did the Arab League get Arafat's approval to omit clear Palestinian borders from the final resolution?

If the answer is yes, it means Arafat may be ready for a deal with Netanyahu - to be flexible on the final-status negotiations if Netanyahu recognizes him as leader not only in Gaza, but in the West Bank too. The summit resolution on this point may be considered as the first offer of such a deal.

There was also US Secretary of State Warren Christopher's remark in Cairo that the "land for peace" formula should now be adapted to the new circumstances.

Arafat's embryonic hint might just reduce the new government into continuing along the road with Arafat, with some provisos. But the relationship with Arafat would not be a strategic one - Arafat was the strategic ally of Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres. The strategic ally of Netanyahu is King Hussein.

This is another good reason to think that ultimately the West Bank leadership will oust Arafat and align with Jordan, because this leadership is inherently Jordan-oriented, while Arafat's PA in Gaza is Egypt-oriented.

If the new government offers Arafat a de-facto state in Gaza, but with the West Bank linked to Jordan, the West Bank leadership might accept the offer. Arafat would undoubtedly refuse it.

We can surmise this from the suggestion for a tripartite meeting of Netanyahu, Arafat and Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak. The idea would be to confirm Egypt, rather than Jordan, as the closest ally of the Palestinians.

There seems little doubt Netanyahu would prefer the triangle Israel-West Bank-Jordan to Israel-Egypt-Gaza.

## Turkey's Islamists unlikely to follow Iranian model

TURKEY is a place where BMWs roam cities, but donkeys are the only transport in some villages.

Luxurious villas sit shoulder-to-shoulder with shanty-towns and the stock market and industry are booming, but 20 percent of the nation is illiterate.

The rise to power of the Welfare Party and the naming of its leader, Necmettin Erbakan, as prime minister last week has worried secularists while elating the more conservative Islamic-oriented population.

But both sides made it clear in interviews that they see little chance of an Islamic state being

formed.

"We don't want Turkey to be like Iran," said Durmus Cavdar, a 47-year-old factory worker in Sincan. "I stick to Islamic rules strictly in my home, but I don't want them to be forced on others."

Turkey rose from the ruins of the Ottoman Empire in 1923, built on Western norms. Its legal code came from France, Italy and Switzerland. The Roman alphabet replaced Arabic.

Most Turks don't want an end to secularism. The Welfare Party won only one-fifth of the vote, but led the field in December elections because of divisions in the center-right and center-left.

Welfare has argued that the nation's Moslem identity was swept aside during that transition, and modernity came at the sake of oppressed religion.

"I want Welfare to give us the freedom to practice our religion - my daughter now has to take her scarf off when she goes to school. That's not fair," said Cavdar.

"But I also don't want them to ban alcohol or force all women to cover their heads. Islam and democracy can live together."

Islam bans alcohol, but most Turkish Moslems wouldn't think of giving up raki, the anise-flavored national liquor.

At the Manhattan club, like hundreds of others in the capital, beer flows through the tap all night long.

"Their ultimate goal is probably an Islamic regime, but they won't be able to do it - ever," said Tolga Isman, a 16-year-old high-school student, as he danced to the live band. "They might do little things, but they won't have the power to change anything major."

The little things Welfare might change could be expanding lunch hours on Fridays to allow time for Moslem prayers, or tolerating Islamic attire in schools and government offices. (AP)

## Iran welcomes Syrian mediation with Bahrain

IRAN has welcomed Syrian mediation efforts to end a row between the Islamic republic and Bahrain, which has accused Tehran of masterminding a plot to topple its government, state-run Tehran radio reported.

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati expressed gratitude to visiting Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq al-Shara over his "political efforts and goodwill to get rid of ambiguities in Tehran-Manama relations".

Syrian President Hafez Assad met with Bahrain's emir, Sbeikh

Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa, after the Arab League summit in Cairo last week.

Assad reportedly was not pleased with language in the summit's communique. It expressed "strong indignation at the interference in the internal affairs of Bahrain" and added that Arab leaders "call on Iran to respect the sovereignty of Bahrain in order to prevent sabotage and to ensure peace and stability in the region."

Shara, who returned to Iran early this week after first visiting Bahrain, said he had held positive

talks with Bahraini officials about ties between Tehran and Manama, the radio said.

Shara visited Iran on a weekend mediation mission.

Bahrain last month accused Iran of supporting a Shi'ite Moslem-led plot to overthrow the government by force and install an Islamic state loyal to Tehran.

Iran denied the charges and offered to mediate between the government of Bahrain and its Shi'ite opponents demanding political and economic reforms. (Agencies)

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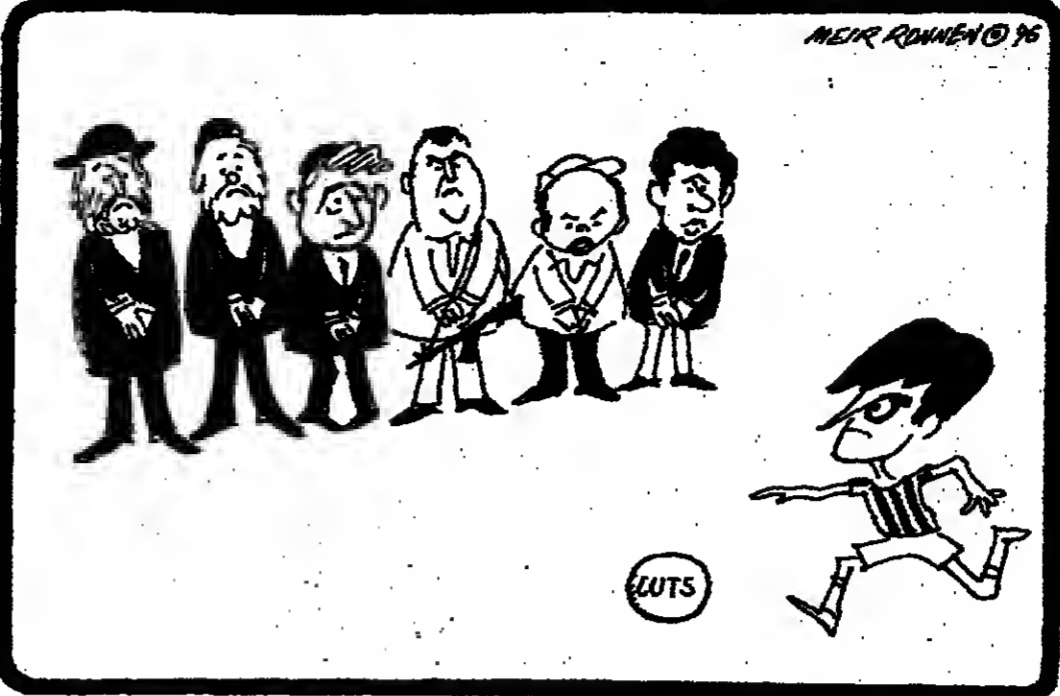
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## OPINION



# Mud & morality

ELLEN HOROWITZ

I guess the fact that Binyamin Netanyahu has a lovely wife and some cute kids must really irk some journalists. The new leader's personal life seems to attract a steady flow of cynics and scandal-seekers all waiting in line to sling mud. Maybe it's the American in me, but I was kind of sick of Israeli prime ministers with Polish accents and reclusive wives. I find Bibi's family a refreshing change. He seems to love his wife and kids sincerely. In fact, he carries that image off more successfully than his American counterpart. Somehow Bill's and Hillary's affection for each other seems just a little stilted and reports of their considering adopting a child seemed a bit bizarre, as if they were trying too hard. Maybe they are. American values with regard to family life are going through some difficult times. The image of the all-American family is fast becoming more legend than reality. But in Israel, the traditional family structure still enjoys great popularity, which is why I'm at a loss over why so many Israeli media professionals make a mockery of wholesome family life.

# Test of Bibi's mettle

GERALD M. STEINBERG

THE ambush near the Jordan River that killed three Israeli soldiers and a series of relatively large-scale and well-planned attacks in Lebanon seem to signal the start of a testing period for the new government. In the eyes of Israel's enemies, the new prime minister appears a young and inexperienced leader, one unable to make difficult decisions under pressure. Escalating attacks on all fronts would create such pressure, leading Netanyahu to overreact—resulting in international isolation and a crisis with the US—or to underreact, leading to internal conflict. Either way, Netanyahu loses and the radical Arabs win. The attack near the Jordan river demonstrated that Israel's other borders can also be crossed by hostile forces. Although the demarcation lines between Syria and Israel on the Golan have been essentially free of cross-border forays and attacks, it is possible that in the current political environment Assad could join in the effort to goad Netanyahu into overreacting. In such a situation, Netanyahu would be faced with an anxious Israeli public, split between supporters of a large-scale military response, regardless of the consequences, and doves urging caution and diplomatic solutions in the hope of avoiding a full-scale confrontation and a return to the 1960s. Our society could split even more seriously than in 1982, thereby becoming weaker. Palestinian or Syrian analysts and leaders could see such a process as an opportunity to cripple the government, forcing Netanyahu to resign or be forced out of office. This would leave open the way to the return of a more pliant Labor party and

Maritz on the basis of a renewed peace process based on Israeli concessions.

GIVEN this scenario, Netanyahu's objective must be to avoid both extremes. He must neither overreact like Menachem Begin (under the influence of Ariel Sharon and Rafael Eitan) in 1982, nor underreact like Peres in the wake of suicide bombings

into the decision-making process, although ultimately decisions will be Israel's responsibility. The military forces involved should be minimized, to avoid both the accidental deaths of civilians and the weakening of political alliances. To provide long-term hope, options for resuming the negotiation process should be kept open. In some ways, this scenario can be compared to the situation faced by President Kennedy when he assumed office in 1961. The Soviet leadership viewed the new president as young, inexperienced and "soft," despite his militant campaign rhetoric. Khrushchev tested Kennedy throughout his first two years in a series of confrontations beginning in Berlin and ending with the 1962 Cuban missile crisis. As a result, despite his personal popularity, Kennedy came under intense pressure in the US, particularly from the military, to act more boldly in confronting the Soviets. During the 1962 Cuban crisis, he was concerned that any sign of weakness would cost him the 1964 elections—yet he also knew the risks of overreaction and the prospects of a nuclear exchange with the Soviet Union. By carefully choosing his responses (a naval quarantine and deployment of attack aircraft poised for a strike at Soviet forces in Cuba) and forcefully explaining the American position in the UN, Kennedy and his advisors managed to avoid capitulation or escalation. Although the details are quite different, Netanyahu can find much to learn from this bit of history.

Netanyahu might learn a thing or two from Kennedy when he came to office in 1961

earlier this year. Finding just the right combination of military operations and diplomacy is very difficult, but with enough preparation, it is possible. Optimal targets for retaliation to any attack must be chosen, with an accompanying massive political campaign (Netanyahu's forte) to maintain domestic and international (mainly American) support. Attacks into the Palestinian autonomy areas might be necessary in response to terrorism, but these should be limited in scope and time. The political goals for each military operation must be clearly defined (in contrast to the Grapes of Wrath debacle), and they should be realistic. (In 1982, the expectation that Israel could control the future of Lebanon was absurd and cost hundreds of Israeli lives with nothing to show for the effort.) To the extent possible the US government should be brought

Whether on a kibbutz or in Mea Shearim, tourists from across the world marvel at the dominant role children play in Israeli society. Family life is a central theme in Judaism and at times it seems as if every other woman in Jerusalem is pregnant. Speaking of "the other woman," I figure the journalistic obsession with Bibi's past can only be explained by one of four reasons. Either those journalists are: Far more pious and self-righteous than I am; Complete low-lives; Jealous of Bibi and the gang; Sore losers. Because I like to think the best of people, I'll scratch the last three options and concentrate on the first. The media has put me to shame. Here I am, a religiously observant Jew who feels no need to delve into Bibi's past. I just figured he was a classic case of a young, good-looking, secular diplomat who consequently lived a colorful life. It certainly didn't affect my vote. But I had those journalists pegged all wrong. They're far more concerned, even obsessed, with Bibi's morality than I could ever be. All those liberal, bohemian, free-spirited press people must be, deep in their hearts, uptight closet conservatives. Believe me, I'm familiar with this syndrome. Years ago a boyfriend would put on Bach and I'd switch the tape to Pink Floyd. He'd talk of marriage and children, I'd laugh and speak of art, travel, and Greenpeace. He'd claim I was really a closet conservative. He was right - today I'm pregnant with my sixth child, and he's probably living off in some commune in Tibet. A few weeks ago Closet Conservative Syndrome surfaced again. A close friend who was a staunch lesbian and defender of gay rights showed up at my door. It seems she went straight and at the age of 45 got married and had a kid. I stood in the doorway and stared at her in disbelief. The only thing between us was my stomach, a mezzuzah, her baby and her wedding band. Merely less I berated her for being a hypocritical closet conservative. For years I'd worked on myself to accept her choice and be more tolerant. I came to terms with her lifestyle, and she had the audacity to switch on me. But it seems people change. So, really, it's okay for all you journalists, political commentators and television personalities to come out of the closet—unless of course, you'd rather continue wallowing in the mud. We know you really like Israel's "first family."

What a weirdo I must be. I feel no urge to delve into Bibi's past life

The writer is a Fulbright scholar researching Israeli constitutional law.

The writer is an illustrator and cartoonist.

## The first cut

DECIDING to execute a NIS 4.9 billion budget cut is not easy, but the hard part is yet to come. All are agreed that government spending needs to be severely slashed—the days when government deficits were automatically covered by increased taxes seem to be thankfully behind us—the question now is whether the ministers facing the budget ax will agree to see their newly acquired empires emptied of some of their treasures. Indeed, not all of the cabinet agreed with yesterday's proposals put forward by Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Finance Minister Dan Meridor. Not surprisingly, the ministers facing the largest cuts—Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai and Education Minister Zevulun Hammer—were among the five ministers who called for a less hard-hitting fiscal program. Arguments between the Treasury and the Defense Ministry over the size of the defense budget (and the cost of army salaries and social benefits in particular) are nothing new, but over the past four years the Treasury has been hampered by the unhealthy fact that the defense minister Rabin always had prime minister Rabin's ear. Now, with a prime minister determined to use his direct mandate from the electorate to push forward his views unencumbered by extra port-

folio obligations, the Treasury has an opportunity it must not waste to bring the economy back on track. Netanyahu is correct for wanting to introduce economic change quickly and decisively. Economically, the longer budget necessary cuts are delayed, the worse the eventual cuts will be; politically, Netanyahu has a window of opportunity which will close in the near future. On assuming office, Netanyahu received an economy which showed signs of serious disequilibrium. Any economic belt-tightening introduced now can be blamed, rightly, on the profligacy of the previous government. Should he stall, Netanyahu will find a public less willing to put the blame for a drop in the standard of living on former finance minister Avraham Shohat. And, with four years of his term in front of him, Netanyahu can take a chance on short-term unpopularity in return for a buoyant economy on the eve of the next elections. Netanyahu is said to want the budget discussions wrapped up before his visit to the United States next week. While this understandable, he should be careful not to allow himself to be pressured into making decisions due to an artificial deadline. The memories of the burning formation of his government due to a silly, self-imposed timetable are still too fresh in the mind.

## Lift the closure

IT is time for the government to seriously consider lifting the closure imposed on the territories and Gaza Strip since the suicide bombings of late February and early March. That under no circumstances should the security and safety of any citizen be compromised goes without saying. But a long list of high-ranking security personnel—including OC Central Command Maj.-Gen Uzi Dayan, OC Southern Command Maj.-Gen Shlomo Yanai, and General Security Service director Ami Ayalon—have stated the closure can be lifted while guaranteeing the necessary level of security. There are a number of compelling reasons for supporting such a decision. The original impetus for imposing the closure was justified. Following the brutal attacks in Ashkelon, Jerusalem, and Tel Aviv in the span of a week, the closure sent a strong psychological message to the Palestinian Authority regarding the intolerable use of its territory as a springboard for terrorist attacks. But closures are effective only in the short term. In the long term they serve to build up pressure and frustration, which may then be expressed in further violence. As Likud MK Gideon Ezra, who as former deputy head of the General Security Service is not lacking in security experience, noted recently, "Terrorists don't use Israeli permits, so they can still find other ways in, while the closure punishes those who seek to follow the law." One does not need to be a military expert to know there are a thousand and one ways to get around the closure; the unpatrolled back roads to Jerusalem are common knowledge in Ramallah. There have indeed been terrorist attacks during periods of closure—such as the one that took the lives of Efrat and Yaron Unger a month ago near Beit Shemesh. Instead of punishing the terrorists, the closure ends up exacting a heavy price from law-abiding Palestinians, who after all are our neighbors. The main alternative to lifting the closure is institutionalizing it by effecting the full "separation plan," including erecting a fence between Israel and the territories. But this plan is largely unworkable, expensive, and runs counter to opinions expressed by many government ministers. The latter have stated they prefer to view the country as one territorial unit and have opposed actions which would establish different statuses for Israel and the territories. Moreover, the contacts that have grown between the two sides of the Green Line over the past 29 years have created an economic and social interaction

that cannot be easily undone. The means of ensuring both security and Palestinian access to Israeli labor markets should include increased patrols along the "seam lines" aimed at preventing infiltration; careful security checks of all persons applying for entry permits; the granting of permits to older and married individuals with no security record; and proper supervision of crossing points. There are also economic grounds for lifting the closure. The closure is costing the Palestinian economy an estimated \$3 million to \$4m. each day, and has led to widespread unemployment in the territories. Under such conditions, the built-up frustration can only lead to an increased hatred of Israel that is inimical to cooperation and dialogue. No less a government official than Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu expressed the economic argument for lifting the closure best in an interview with *The Jerusalem Post* in which he spoke of his interest in promoting "a climate of economic freedom and cooperation between us and the Palestinians... It is very much rooted in my basic concept of the value of free markets." Israeli economic interests are harmed as well by the closure, and not only because some industries that have in the past depended on Palestinian labor are forced to seek alternatives. The closure has also given various economic pressure groups the opportunity to distort economic activities. For example, it is no accident that at the height of the closure special dispensations permitting the renewal of importation to Israel were granted to Gaza-produced textile products, but not agricultural produce. Security considerations played no role in those decisions—the simple fact was that the textile industry needed the Gazan product for its factories, while agricultural interests were keener on blocking the entry of competitive produce into the Israeli market. The use of the closure as a tool of economic protectionism is counter-productive to the Finance Ministry's goal of increasing competitiveness in the Israeli market. A decision by the government, even in principle, to lift the closure will enable Netanyahu to present President Bill Clinton in their meeting next week with one more positive Israeli gesture towards continuing the peace dialogue. Simultaneously this would strengthen Israel's insistence, over which there can be no compromise, that the Palestinian Authority take every step necessary to combat and dismantle the terrorist infrastructure in its territory.

# A quartet of deputy PMs

ADAM DODEK

PRIME Minister Netanyahu stumbled to present his new government. His cabinet included no less than four deputy prime ministers, but no true deputy to succeed him in time of crisis. This is no fault of Netanyahu's. It results from a flaw in the new law for direct election which—like its predecessor—fails to provide adequately for succession in case of the premier's death or incapacitation. This is a possibility no one likes to raise, but to ignore it is perilous. Under the old law, ministers convened to select a colleague who was an MK to become an interim prime minister with the full powers of the office. The president then chose an MK recognized as leader of the major party to form a new government. This is what happened when prime minister Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated. Israel was "lucky" then because Shimon Peres was the natural successor in the government and in the Labor Party. Today, a more likely Labor battle for succession would have been between Haim Ramon and Ehod Barak—not an appealing image. But instead of learning from the experience of the Rabin assassination—that a prime minister can die in office—Israel's legislators ignored it. Under the new law, if the prime minister dies or is incapacitated, his cabinet selects a replacement who serves as an interim prime minister with full powers until new elections are held for the prime minister within 60 days. Until a new prime minister takes office, the previous government is frozen. No new ministers may be added, and none may leave. Of the 17 ministers in the prime minister's government, only seven, including the prime minister, are Likud members. If the prime minister were to die, be incapacitated or were forced to resign immediately, the Likud would only control six of the 16 votes in the cabinet. It would lack

the power to ensure that a Likud minister lead the nation in the transition to a new directly-elected prime minister. The other members of the government could unite to select a minister who represents a party with less than 10 percent of the popular vote to become the interim premier. The recent squabbling over portfolios demonstrates that nothing is

There's a flaw in the new law for direct election, and it has created an intolerable situation

certain within the government, or within the Likud. The Likud may not have the support of the majority of the population, but surely any replacement for the prime minister should come from his own party. THE proposed adoption of the so-called Norwegian law under which all ministers would resign from the Knesset except the premier and his deputies adds a new twist to the problem. Under the law for direct election an interim prime minister must be chosen from among those ministers who are MKs. This would leave only the deputies as possible options. Fortunately the Likud's Moshe Katsav wrangled himself a deputy prime ministership. For none of the other three deputies—David Levy (Gesher), Rafael Eitan (Shomer), or Zevulun Hammer (NRP)—are Likud representatives. If out for Katsav, Netanyahu would have completely boxed his party out in the case of his death or incapacitation.

To be sure, the prime minister wasn't concerned about succession or the fate of his party when he doled out the deputy prime ministerships. The fact is that the post holds no statutory power whatsoever. It never has. The existence of four incumbents reflects the position's lack of importance. The proposed bills for the new law for direct election of the prime minister did, in their preliminary stages, contain various proposals for selecting deputy prime ministers. But somewhere along the line they vanished. The new law didn't abolish the position, it just left it unregulated. A prime minister may choose not to appoint a deputy at all (as was the case with prime ministers Rabin and Peres) or, like Netanyahu, he may decide to appoint four. Nothing prevents him from appointing 10 deputies. It's an intolerable situation. A deputy prime minister should be the prime minister's stand-in and replacement during crisis. There can only be one deputy. The role is too important to be handed out as an extra bit of prestige to coalition partners. When the public votes for the prime minister, it has the right to know who will take his place if he cannot carry on. The easiest solution would be to make the top party member on the prime minister's Knesset list the candidate for deputy premier. The deputy must be from the same party as the prime minister. In this election, these candidates would have been Uzi Baram and Yitzhak Mordechai, respectively. Orderly succession is vital to democracy. Relying on a natural successor in time of crisis is an invitation to disaster. The law should be amended to provide for a single deputy prime minister who would automatically succeed if the need arose. The writer is a Fulbright scholar researching Israeli constitutional law.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### CONGRATULATIONS

Sir—We would like to congratulate the people of Israel for having the courage to face and make the hard choices. We feel that the so-called "peace process" was a sham and that this would be the first chance the people of your country could voice their opinion on the Oslo Accord. I only hope your American allies will have the same courage this November and opt for true peace and not the pseudo-peace our current

president has preached. We are embarrassed over his recent remarks about how his administration will deal with Mr. Netanyahu: "If Israel is prepared to take risks for peace, we are determined to do our best to reduce the risks and increase the security of those who do that." What a paper tiger! This from the man who has barricaded himself in the White House! TOM AND JENNY CLARKSON Baraboo, Wisconsin.

### UNWISE DIVISION

Sir—Netanyahu's caving in to the Orthodox will have little effect on older Jews like me, who recognize the importance of Israel to all Jews. But the blatant disregard of the civil rights of large number of Israeli citizens and the denigration of the Judaism of the Diaspora will suggest to most younger Jews, to whom the Holocaust is history like the Crusades and the Inquisition, that Israel

is irrelevant to them. This perception is wrong, but it will be very widespread. In a world that hates Jews to begin with, this division and separation of our people is unwise and dangerous. We are in some respects reliving the civil war described by Josephus 2,000 years ago. JOSEPH R. ABRAHAMSON, M.D. San Diego, California.

### IMPROVE THE SCHOOL SYSTEM

Sir—I would like to reply to Larry Derfner's column "Hail to the NRP" (J.P., June 20). On January 10, I wrote to the then minister of education Professor Amnon Rubinstein asking him if he could explain to me the educational value of taking 15-year-olds to watch a transvestite performance at the end of which the class was asked the vote for "Miss Israel." I got a very *shmalzy* reply which carefully avoided the question. Perhaps Mr. Derfner thinks that this is an improvement on teaching our children and grandchildren the history and traditions of our Jewish religion. Yes, "Hail to the NRP" and may they improve the school system, which badly needs it. Perhaps Israel should take an example from England which is currently engaged in re-training many teachers and firing those who cannot meet the required standard for good education. MRS. ANN CAPLAN Jerusalem.

Handwritten signature or mark at the bottom right of the page.



# Filling the gaps

### Today's landscape architects have to take the 'leftovers' after buildings are already in place, Esther Hecht reports

**D**EREK Bok had a problem. Forgetfulness. Not his own, but that of staff and students at Harvard University where he was president.

In winter the maintenance workers, who hated having to look after the fountains, would fill them with earth and plant them with tulips. By spring, all anyone could remember was how beautiful the tulips were.

To produce a campus fountain no one would forget, Bok turned to landscape architect Peter Walker, who had chaired the landscape department of the university's Graduate School of Design. Walker produced an ingenious solution for all seasons.

Instead of a traditional basin, he created a 20-meter-wide, circular area of large, smooth stones. Water rises from the ground in a fine spray, behind which the innermost stones seem to fade away, or "demeledize," as current architectural jargon has it. At night, lighting from below makes them materialize out of the darkness.

In the heat of summer, students sit on the stones, cooling off in the mist. Passersby who circle the fountain are sure to see a rainbow of refracted light in the spray.

And in winter, the fountain doesn't go away. Though capped with snow, the stones are still there as reminders, and instead of cool mist, pumped steam rises.

from the ground.

**F**ORGETFULNESS, especially in the form of poor maintenance, is the landscape architect's greatest bugbear. This is especially true in Southern California, where Walker does much of his work.

Like Israel, that region has long, dry summers and frequent droughts, which are disastrous for gardens.

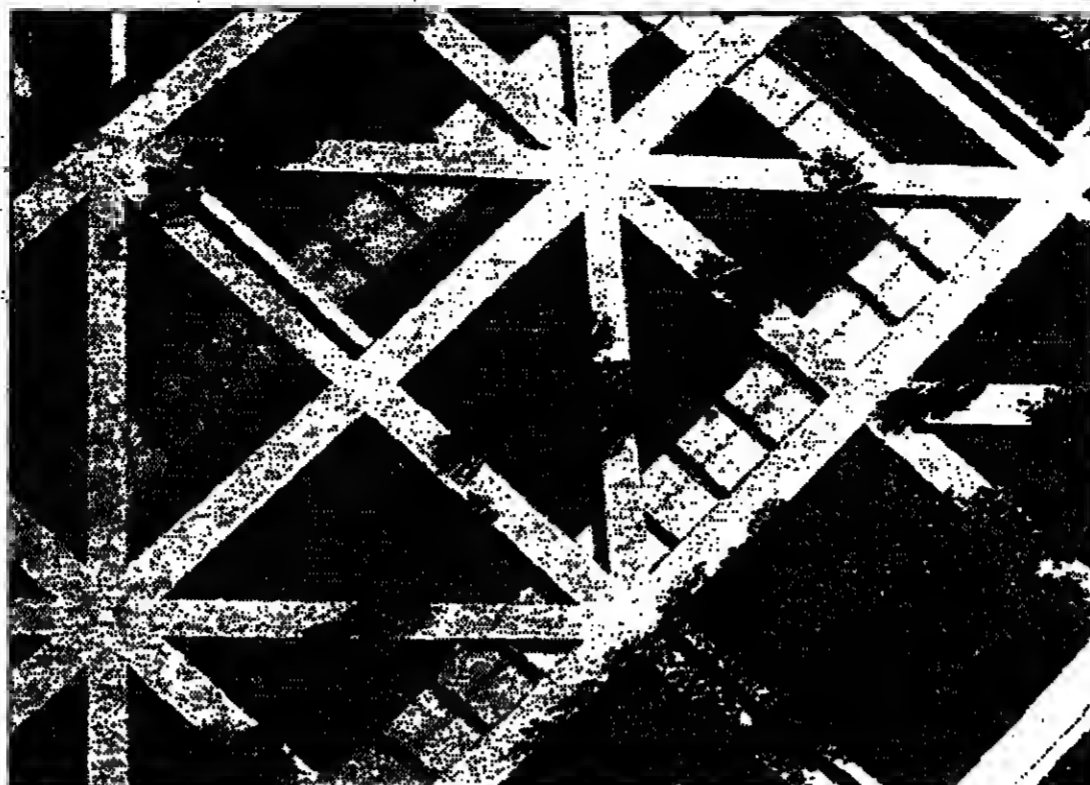
"Universities are notorious. Cities are worse. When there's a drought, they turn off all the water and don't ask what needs watering," he said, drawing nods of "I know exactly what you mean" from his Jerusalem audience.

Walker was one of eight leading architects from Europe, Australia and North America here recently to present their work at the third biennial Jerusalem Seminar in Architecture, sponsored by Yad Hanadiv (the Rothschild Foundation).

This year's seminar topic, "Technology, Place & Architecture," is particularly relevant for landscape architects, whose sphere of operation has changed radically, Walker said.

Ideally, they should be involved in a project from its inception, so that it "grows" from the ground. In the 19th century, they were asked to design large spaces: city parks and university campuses, for example.

Today buildings are large and



Peter Walker (r) used trees from an older park in his redesign of Fort Worth's Burnett Park. (Gerald Campbell)

complex, drawing attention to themselves and surrounded by labyrinths of "infrastructure" — pipes, roads, buses.

Landscape architecture is often relegated to what's left over, which Walker describes as "a series of peripheral spaces."

Typical of the constraints of infrastructure was the entrance to the subway station at San Francisco's busiest street corner where Walker was asked to design a mini-park.

To a depth of more than a dozen meters, the space below street level is a tangle of wires and pipes. To provide trees for this park, Walker had them planted in pots, and then suspended the pots in the below-ground airspace.

WALKER IS not averse to using technology to highlight nature. But landscape architects in general are less enthusiastic than other architects

about technology, especially when it attacks natural systems.

Japan, where he has designed several large projects, is one place where Walker set out to rescue nature from the ravages of technology. But to do so, he had to change a cultural mindset.

Traditionally, well-to-do people lived in the valleys, closer to sources of water, and only poor people lived on hills. So the developers' idea of preparing hills for construction was to grade them. To persuade local officials that it was possible to build on a hill without grading it and destroying the natural forest, Walker hired a poet to translate his ideas into the highest literary language.

Asked what he thought about the use of public space in Jerusalem, Walker commented that in San Francisco, where he now lives, the city fathers had wisely set aside the hills for parks.

Jerusalem's planners have followed a different strategy, building on the hills and trying to save the valleys as public open space. "That's a great idea," Walker said, but added that local counterparts are concerned that the valleys should also be kept open.

Do Israelis really need lawns? "The little house with the front garden" is a very British notion, something not found in France or Spain, Walker said.

But the real question is what kind of space one needs for private and for public things. "You don't need a lawn to do private things," he said.

In New York City, for example, he has designed rooftop gardens for apartment houses.

MICHAEL Amitai, of Giladi Amthal Architects in Safed, believes we need to see green around us — not just on rooftops. She was one of



hundreds of Israeli architects who attended the three-day seminar.

Many of Walker's ideas are applicable here, she said, though she sees him as an international designer, someone whose designs will look beautiful anywhere, as opposed to herself, whose work is part of a tradition of local architecture that is far more connected to place.

Particularly adaptable in Israel is Walker's use of natural materials — especially of stone — in parking lots and in fountains, his reliance on indigenous plants, and his belief that architects must make more use of the seasons.

Here especially, "because we have such a short spring and fall, landscape architects must use plants in a way that will help people notice the change of seasons," Amitai said.

She disapproves of the tendency to use fewer and fewer plants in response to the problems of maintenance Walker mentioned.

Instead, the proper approach is to educate those who commission the work. And she cited a story Walker had recounted: When investors balked at his demand for an employee to maintain the plants he had included in his design, he asked them whether they also planned to do without someone to maintain the millions of dollars' worth of technological equipment they had installed. They got his point.

## Architecture film library opens

**L**OOKING back at the age of 85 on his career as an architect, a ramrod-backed Frank Lloyd Wright confessed to an interviewer, "Early in life I had to choose between honest arrogance and hypocritical humility. I chose arrogance and have seen no reason to change, even now."

Explaining why he entered architecture in the first place, he said dryly that he was born into it: "My mother wanted a son who was an architect," and he was her only son.

This 1953 film was one of five screened at the third biennial Jerusalem Seminar in Architecture. Others focused on Peter Eisenman, John Hejduk, Louis Kahn — three giants of American architecture — and on Bauhaus in America.

The films are among more than 50 available on loan from the Architecture Education Archive, recently established by Yad Hanadiv (the Rothschild Foundation) which sponsored the seminar. Also available are the filmed lectures and discussions of the two previous seminars.

The films are available to individuals or institutions for educational, nonprofit purposes. There is a handling fee of NIS 30 per film, for a two-week loan. A one-time fee of NIS 300 covers an unlimited number of films.

According to seminar coordinator Lynne Rosman, the ultimate goal is for the film library to be taken over by a university.

Yad Hanadiv is located at 16 Ibn Gvirol Street in the Rehavia quarter of Jerusalem.

E.H.

## Six more ways to connect with your kids

**C**ONTINUED from last week, here are six more great methods for busy parents to spend time with their children in a mutually beneficial and enjoyable way.

### SPORTS

"Before the age of 11, kids are quite verbal but quite concrete," says child psychiatrist Ian Camino. "So the best way to communicate is through an activity the child and you value highly."

"When roller blades first came out, my son wanted to learn to skate. So we rented two pairs, and learned together."

"I was a teacher and learner and so was he. We fell down together and got up together. He felt very proud and kept wanting to do it together."

"It became our special project and it was an incredible bonding experience."

### FAMILY STORIES

"Tell me a story about when you were a child," Iana will often say. Or (for the hundredth time), "Tell me about my birth." She also asks for stories about when her grandparents were small.

As tedious as it may be for me to repeat familiar tales over and over, my kids can't seem to get enough of them. And telling them not only connects us in the present moment, it creates bonds between my children and their own past, adding to their sense of who they are and where they came from.

After a while, you'll notice your kids have their favorites. "Tell me about the time you lost your tooth in kindergarten," Yosef will say. Or, "Tell about the time Grandma came home and her mother wasn't there."

### PLAYING GAMES

For those of us who would rather do anything — even clean the stove — than play Candy Land, Dr. Yammer suggests finding a game both you and your child can enjoy, such as Junior Scrabble.

"Play on the floor rather than the table," he advises.

"Kids feel more connected to you on the floor. You're more on their level. You've gone to them."

### PARENTING RUTH MASON

If your child insists on playing the board game Trouble and you hate it, focus on other things, says Dr. Yammer. "There are lots of interactions I can have with my four-year-old that are not about Trouble, like counting spaces and learning simple strategy."

"I'm not necessarily playing Trouble. I'm observing my daughter and engaging her around issues of her development."

### ROUGHHOUSING

Hillary Milgrom, a mother of three who is also a family therapist, finds ways to connect with her children even when they are angry.

"When talking doesn't work, as it often doesn't, she asks 'Do you want to play the pushing game?'" Mother and child then stand facing each other in the center of a room, grasp each other's upper arms and push.

The idea is to try to push your partner to the other side of the room. Hillary will put up a valiant struggle but let her child "win." Invariably, by the end of a few rounds, the child is giggling and the anger has dissipated.

Another version is for Mom or Dad to stand in front of the sofa holding a pillow. Let your child run at you as fast as she can and push you down onto the sofa. It helps if you groan or protest as you fall!

### MAKE BELIEVE

During a picnic with friends when Iana was six, she got tired of playing frisbee and climbing trees.

"Let's pretend to be fairies," she suggested, not wanting to leave the grown-ups, but finally agreed. Following her lead, we hid behind some bushes and talked about our lives as wood nymphs.

I had to put my rational self on hold and enter her world but once I did, we were in it together, sharing what to Iana was a secret, magical and exciting adventure.

My friend Claudia has a knack for getting into her four-year-old daughter's make-believe doll games. She sits on a couch with Lesley, each of them holding a doll.

Following Lesley's lead, Claudia becomes the doll, speaking and acting for her.

As with discussing books, this one-step-moved, activity may reveal things about your child's thoughts and feelings that she may never tell you directly.

### AND YES, TALKING

Christina's favorite time with nine-year-old Georgia is the coffee-and-juice break they take weekly at a local cafe. "We talk about her world, but it isn't easy," Christina admits.

"I have to probe a little. If we're alone, it works, but if her little brother is around, it's a disaster."

"I want to give advice, to fix things for her but I try to shut up and listen. I try to say things like 'Why is that?' or 'Give me another example.'"

"I can only do that when I'm not distracted, which is why we go out. Usually I just can't stand it and throw in a piece of advice at the end!

"What's important is her feeling that I'm really listening to her and not talking to my four-year-old or answering the phone."

"Most parents have a natural, unexplored connection to their kids," says Dr. Yammer. "We don't think much about it, we take it for granted. But I think both we and our children benefit from a specific expression of that connection."

"That takes paying attention. It's so easy to not be attuned to our kids, to be thinking about work or the mortgage."

"Those moments of connection build on all the other time we spend together. But it's also important to set aside this special time. Our children experience us completely differently when we are focused on them."

**G**O ahead, try to "make my day" in Badibud. Or "surf the Net" in Bukiyp. Or "do a deal" in a dialect of Bo. Linguistically speaking, you aren't going to get there from here.

New Guinea's 1,300 languages come up short in the ironic and trendy, but they make up for it with the treasures of timeless tongues: a wealth of words for nature's works, for myths and age-old rites and magic, and a complexity rich enough to turn a linguist's inquiry into a lifetime endeavor.

There's just one problem: The timeless tongues are running out of time.

"To some extent, almost every language in the country is endangered," said Bill Staley, a linguist in Ukarumpa, a missionary outpost in Papua New Guinea's lush Central Highlands.

In fact, languages around the world may share the same fate.

Scholars believe 90 percent of human languages may disappear by the mid-21st century, pushed to oblivion's edge by the spread of English and other "world" languages via media, trade and migration and by the pressure of dominant vernaculars in their own homelands.

A thin, underfunded line of linguists around the world is trying to bolt back the tide and save — or at least document — many of these "small tongues."

In America, more than 150 native languages are declining. In India, 149 are endangered. The challenges are everywhere. But just as archaeologists flock to Egypt and art lovers to Rome, linguists gravitate to this corner of the western Pacific, where one-fifth of the world's 6,000 languages, from Abaga to Zimakan, are spoken on a rugged tropical island.

Terrain explains New Guinea's linguistic diversity. The islanders — now 4 million — developed in isolated units hemmed in by mountains, sea and rivers, and by the enmity of the tribe over the hill. "You'll find people living on hills in grassy swamp areas, and each hill has a different language; maybe 200 people each," said linguist Daryl Pfantz. Staley and Pfantz are with the Summer Institute of Linguistics, a US-based, nondenominational Christian organization that translates the Bible into the world's minor tongues. The translator-missionaries, usually husband-and-wife teams, typically spend 15 to 20 years in a remote village, learning the language, developing an alphabet and translating the Bible.

Often they learn native speech with the help of villagers who speak the English hybrid Pidgin, Papua New Guinea's unofficial vernacular. Institute teams are working on 185 New Guinea languages and have completed translations for 94. And they have shed new light along the way on the human gift of tongues.

In New Guinea you can find, for example, the language with the world's fewest basic units of sound — Rotokas, with just 13 — as well as the one with the most — Yele, with 96 "homemes."

One language has a vocabulary of a mere few hundred words — apparently a tribe with an especially simple life. Another has 68 ways to pluralize nouns.

One count finds 117 languages with fewer than 100 speakers. And the languages can be as different as Spanish is from Japanese. In fact, seven are "isolates" — with no relationship to any known tongue in the world.

The curiosities are boundless: One group has named each bird by mimicking its sound, and

calls dogs "rruff."

With no word for "pilot," people speaking Olo — Staley's specialty — settled on "man who holds the nose" of the helicopter. And oddities relate not just to modern concepts: Olo has no "distinctive word" for "walk," instead making "ile," meaning "stand," and doubling it to "ilele," meaning "stand" here, "stand" there — in other words, walking.

But if the gaps are striking — no language here is believed to have a "thank you" or "hello" — the riches are even more so. In Olo, Staley has identified 40 metaphors using "heart" for the range of emotions, from "good heart" for thankful to "rusty heart" for stubborn.

"If you have 36 names for banana and 36 for sago palm, English looks pretty impoverished to cover the things important to these people," he said.

For scholars, documenting grammars and vocabularies helps build universal linguistic theory. But actually saving languages would do more.

"Western culture tends toward 'Everybody does it this way,'" Pfantz said. "But to wipe out this diversity of humankind and make us all clones of each other, well..."

New Guineans themselves feel even more strongly about

their "home" tongues, squeezed by English, the official language, on one side and Pidgin on the other.

"You're looking at distinct communities with our own way of life," said Otto Nekitel, a languages professor at the national university. "It saddens me. The diversity makes us who we are."

To bolster tribal tongues, the government is urging localities to use their languages — not English — in the first three grades of school.

Internationally, UNESCO's 2-year-old Endangered Languages Project makes small grants to linguists to document dying tongues. And the University of Tokyo has just established an Internet database to compile basics about individual languages and, eventually, vocabularies, audio texts and other resources.

But it's an uphill struggle against a trend of homogenization, a trend typified by the first Papua New Guinea entry in UNESCO's "Red Book on Endangered Languages."

It lists "Aribwaisa," and then notes, "One very old woman left."

"When the last person dies off," laments Pfantz, "it's like burning a library building." (AP)

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# BUSINESS & FINANCE

Wednesday, July 3, 1996

## Digital to fire 7,000 due to slow PC sales

JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

DIGITAL Equipment Corp., suffering from a decrease in personal computer sales, yesterday announced plans to take a \$475 million fourth-quarter charge to cut about 7,000 jobs, or 11% of its employees, as part of a larger restructuring program.

The job cuts are expected to affect support staff in the Massachusetts-based company's European and American subsidiaries, said CEO Robert Palmer.

Following the announcement, Digital (NYSE) shares fell 4 1/4, to 41 5/8, in late morning trading.

Palmer said that the decision to make the cuts is a continuation of Digital's long-term restructuring program that began several years ago, at a time when the developer of networked platforms for client-server computing was not sure it would survive.

Since the late 1980's, Digital has cut its staff by about half and become a world leader in the PC market. However, Palmer said, Digital is currently hurting from a

decrease in PC sales in Europe. Digital executives, speaking on a conference call, said fourth-quarter net income will be less than the 74 cents a share in the third quarter, and revenue for the quarter ended June 29 will be less than the \$3.75 billion level it reached in the same period one year ago.

"We obviously are not satisfied with the current business financial results," said Palmer, adding that the revenues will fall \$150m. short of expectations. "The financial performance of our personal computer business is unacceptable."

Digital's troubles reflect a trend in the cyclical PC industry, analysts said.

"If Digital is having problems - and they've got some of the best equipment in the industry - then perhaps they won't be the only ones with negative surprises this quarter," Scott Morrell, a money manager at Flippin, Bruce & Porter, which owned about 500,000 Digital shares at the end of March, told Bloomberg.

## Eitan would consider selling gov't share of Agrexco

DAVID HARRIS

AGRICULTURE Minister Rafael Eitan said yesterday he would not rule out selling off the government's 50-percent interest in Agrexco, the agricultural exporting concern.

The remainder of the company is owned by the growers.

Meanwhile, Agrexco predicted yesterday that 1995-96 will be the best season in the company's 40 years.

Under the Carmel label, Agrexco exported 300,000 tons of produce, including fruit, vegetables, and flowers, for a turnover of \$650 million, a 20% increase on the previous season.

The company exported 75,000

tons of fruit, up 31,000 tons from the year before. The most popular fruit was the avocado, which constituted 66% of the total export volume. This despite the fact that farmers have been facing stiff competition in recent years from the Mexican avocado.

The ability to compete successfully is thanks to the latest agro-technical methods being used by the growers, Agrexco Managing Director Shlomo Tirosh said.

Vegetable exports were also up 33,000 tons, or \$70m., on the previous 12 months.

Similarly, flower exports were up 20%, to \$255m.

## Teledata wins \$3.3m. European contract

JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

TELEDATA Communications announced yesterday it has received a \$3.3 million order for its CTLOOP Pair Gao System from an undisclosed European customer.

The CTLOOP system increases telephone companies' capacity by using HDSL technology that allows the companies to simultaneously transfer 10 calls over the same pair.

After an intensive bidding process, the Herzliya-based company, whose main international competitors include ECI and Philips, was awarded the contract.

"All the telephone companies use this type of solution," said Shmuel Arvatz, CFO of Teledata, adding that overall customer satisfaction with Teledata's network access solutions has helped to enhance sales.

Since the beginning of 1996, Teledata (Nasdaq) has received orders totaling some \$20m.

**Notice to Those Joining the Capitalization Campaign for Home Owners**



The Israel Lands Administration announces that the real annual interest rate for those paying in 12 equal installments is 22.6%,\* and not as published in the letter accompanying the payment booklet.

Participants who choose to pay in four or more installments, at the published real interest rate, may select an alternative cash payment plan and receive a 2.5% discount. This option will apply to the entire sum remaining.

Those choosing the new cash plan may apply to the branch offices from July 14 to July 31, 1996, on these dates only.

\* This interest rate refers to cases in which there is no refund of the annual ground rent as a result of exemptions granted in 1995/96. In cases of refunds, the interest will be adjusted accordingly.

## Wertheimer fails to block IDB share issue

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

THE shareholders of IDB Holding Corp. voted yesterday to enlarge the company's registered shareholders' capital despite industrialist Stef Wertheimer's attempts to block the issue.

At the general shareholders meeting in Tel Aviv the shareholders approved the board of directors' decision to enlarge the company's registered share capital to NIS 300 million, from NIS 200m.

In an announcement to the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange (TASE) the company said the increase will be done by creating an additional 20m. worth of IDB shares, each having a net value of NIS 5 and carrying the same voting right as the ordinary shares.

The decision is expected to pave the way for IDB to increase its capital on the TASE in the future. The decision required the approval of more than 75% of the shareholders present at the meeting.

IDB is controlled by the Recanati family.

In recent months, Wertheimer, acting through his company Iscar, has purchased IDB shares with

the aim of increasing his control of the group to 25% before the general shareholders' meeting, a share which would have enabled him to prevent IDB from increasing its registered capital in the near future.

The industrialist bought a 13% stake in IDB in late May, for about NIS 170m. and additional shares during the last few weeks. But despite his efforts, Wertheimer managed to increase his share only to slightly more than 15%.

Wertheimer's acquisitions of IDB shares were made in the framework of the entrepreneur's plans to force IDB owners to sell their holdings in Iscar. IDB has a stake in Iscar through its subsidiary Discount Investments, which owns 25.3% of Iscar's shares. About half of Discount Investments earnings come from Iscar.

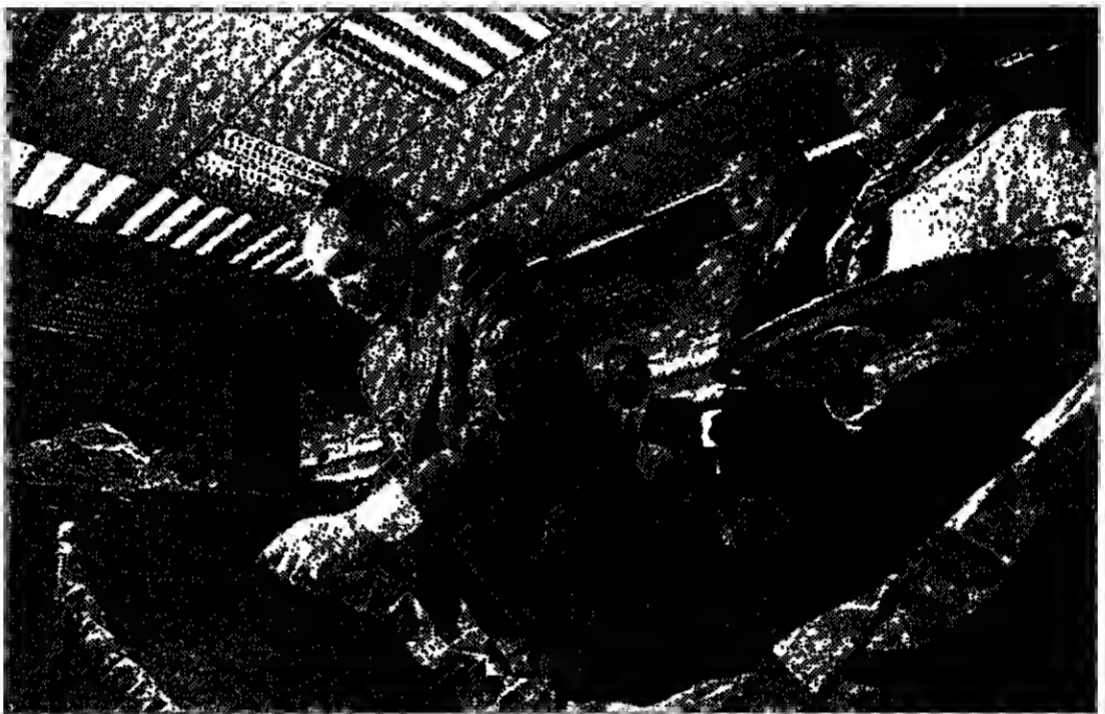
At the general shareholders' meeting, attorney Nir Cohen, on behalf of Wertheimer, tried to prevent the vote from going ahead,

arguing that the shareholders did not have sufficient information to decide. The other shareholders present disagreed with Cohen, and the vote was concluded in less than 20 minutes. Sources close to Wertheimer said the industrialist is considering filing a suit against the company on grounds that the vote was illegal.

Wertheimer and Discount Investments have been involved in a battle associated with the publication of Iscar's financial statements for almost a year. Wertheimer refuses to publicize the privately-owned Iscar's financial statements on grounds it gives competitors access to business information about the company.

Discount Investments has demanded the publication of the results as part of the group's consolidated financial statements.

Over the last few days, Wertheimer and representatives of Discount Investments have held talks to try to resolve the problem. Sources involved said it is too early to say whether anything will come out of the talks.



Yugoslav Finance Minister Jovica Raicevic (left) cuts the ribbon during the opening ceremony of the Belgrade bourse trading floor in the Yugoslav capital yesterday. The bourse moved into new premises to allow fairer and more efficient trading. (Reuters)

## Clalit's share of health funds drops slightly

JUDY SIEGEL

KUPAT Holim Clalit's share of health taxes continues to drop, albeit not as drastically as when the national insurance system was implemented 18 months ago. The National Insurance Institute said yesterday that 66.02 percent of health taxes it collects during the second half of 1996 will go to Clalit, compared with 66.74% during the first half of the year.

The other three health funds all slightly increased their share at Clalit's expense. Maccabi will get 17.08%; Leumit will get 8.68% (compared to 7.56%); and Meuhedet will get 7.82% (compared to 7.62%).

These amounts are not the same as the health

funds' respective share of members. Since Clalit has proportionately a larger percentage of elderly members, it receives several times more compensation for them than for younger members.

Clalit spokesman Rahel Bluestein said yesterday that the health fund's membership has not declined, but has not grown as fast as the increase in population.

The NII will divide some NIS 7 billion among the four health funds during the second half of this year. The total number of residents eligible for health coverage is 5.57 million. From December of last year through May, some 106,000 residents (adults and children) switched health funds.

## Boeing, GE in business jet venture

SEATTLE (Reuters) - Boeing Co. and General Electric Co. said yesterday they have formed a joint venture to develop a medium-sized business jet that can fly nonstop between continents and can be reconfigured easily by different users.

Financial terms of the venture were not disclosed. GE will be a minority participant and the plane's launch customer, ordering two of the jets for corporate use. Delivery of GE's first plane is scheduled for the end of 1998, the companies said.

The Seattle-based venture, Boeing Business Jets, was formed in response to demand for a business aircraft that has a range of over 6,000 nautical miles, they said.

The business jet, derived from the next-generation Boeing 737-700, will include an interior with more flexibility than any other corporate jet. The Boeing 737, the best-selling commercial jetliner of all time, is usually used for shorter and intermediate length routes.

Customers will be able to configure their airplane for each trip - as a meeting center, com-

munication post, traveling hotel or employee transport - in order to accommodate all of their unique trip requirements," said Phil Condit, Boeing chief executive.

The airplane will cruise at speeds up to 0.82 Mach, equivalent to a ground speed of 550 miles per hour, and will be able to serve such routes as New York to Tokyo and London to Johannesburg. The airplane will be powered by the world's best-selling jet engine, the CFM56, produced by CFM International, jointly owned by GE and SNECMA.

Boeing Commercial Airplane Group will provide airplanes to Boeing Business Jets, which will then deliver them to a customer-selected completion center, the companies said.

Boeing's stock rose 25 cents to \$90.125, while GE edged up 25 cents to \$87.625 early on the New York Stock Exchange.

## BUSINESS BRIEFS

Businesses falling behind in payments: Despite a small improvement in June, the economy's rate of timely repayment worsened in the first six months of 1996, compared with the same period last year, a Dun and Bradstreet survey of firms' ability to pay on time indicated.

The survey shows a 29% growth in the number of firms that did not pay their debts on time in the first half of 1996. The worsening in timely repayments was reported in all sectors. Galit Lipkis Beck

Polished-diamond exports down: June's polished-diamond exports declined by 2 percent, to \$263 million, compared to the same period last year, the Ministry of Industry and Trade reported.

Exports of rough diamonds, which are partly processed in Israel, totaled \$54m., a 38% decrease compared to June 1995.

Ministry officials said the decrease is due to the low quality in the rough diamond market. Officials also blamed the decision by the owners of the Australian Argyle mine, the world's largest diamond-producing mine, to pull out of the De Beers diamond trading cartel. Exports of the polished stones stood at \$1.96 billion for the first half of 1996, a 2% increase compared to the same period in 1995. David Harris

Satellite-communications workshop ends: The first Israel-sponsored satellite communications workshop for Black Sea Economic Cooperation member states, concluded in Tel Aviv yesterday.

Participating states included Russia, Ukraine, Albania, Bulgaria and Greece as well as other European and North African countries, such as Tunisia, Egypt and Italy.

The Foreign and Communications ministries hosted the two-day event. David Harris

Conference on technology in education opening: The first International Federation for Data Processing conference is being held this week at Kibbutz Kiryat Anavim.

During the week-long seminar, sponsored by UNESCO, representatives from the 18 participating countries will discuss technological developments in education.

Other subjects on the agenda include new teacher training programs, and a presentation by the Jewish Agency demonstrating its use of the Internet to teach people about Judaism. David Harris

Air France rules out sale of Europe arm: Air France chairman Christian Blanc has ruled out selling the group's troubled Air France Europe domestic and regional arm, and said he wants to turn the loss-making subsidiary around.

Blanc and Air France Europe managing director Jean-Pierre Courcol had wanted to launch a new European airline in 1997 by bringing together Air France Europe and Air France's European operations to meet increased competition.

In the event of not being able to do this one of the options they considered was selling Air France Europe.

But setting up a new airline depended on Air France Europe's pilots signing new contracts which they refused to do. Reuter

EU chumps down on illegal Asian textile exports: The European Union has resorted to the highest technology to combat fraud surrounding textile imports from South Asia.

The European Commission said yesterday it had introduced new export license forms in Bangladesh which were as counterfeit-proof as the most sophisticated bank notes.

Bangladesh is often the unwitting source of a great deal of the fraud, a commission spokesman said, because it has no textile quotas and no tariffs on exports to the EU.

Unscrupulous operators have forged textile licenses on products from third countries to suggest they originated in Bangladesh, the spokesman said. Reuter

## Lloyd's to announce bumper profits for 1993

LONDON (Reuters) - After five long years of terrible losses, the Lloyd's of London insurance market is expected next week to unveil bumper profits of nearly £1.2 billion (\$1.87b.) for the 1993 underwriting year, a key independent analyst said yesterday.

"The 1993 pure year has turned up some phenomenally good returns," said Chatset, an independent and authoritative analyst group that looks only at Lloyd's. It estimated that the marine market produced an average return of 20 percent.

But a one-off payout of £400 million of reserves from the years up to 1992 for those investors or Names who weathered the worst years and continued trading in 1993 may fuel criticism Lloyd's is not doing enough for Names facing financial ruin.

"It is not fair, because if the surplus of reserves is genuine it belongs to the 1992 and prior Names," said Chatset. "It is not necessary because Names writing in 1993 are receiving handsome profits and were not expecting any additional income."

The expected dramatic turnaround in the 300-year old market's fortunes and the special payout mean that Names who traded in 1993 will pocket a total of £1.4b. after charges, representing a return of 15.8 percent on stamp allocation - the capacity to generate premium income.

The figures should reinforce Lloyd's chairman David Rowland's belief that the disastrous years of the market's not too distant past will soon be nothing but a half-forgotten memory. A loss of £1.19b. for 1992 took losses announced over the past five years to over £5.0b.

Under Lloyd's proposed recovery plan, all pre-1993 losses will be reinsured into a new company called Equitas, enabling the market to pass a solvency test at the end of August. Names will vote on the plan at Lloyd's annual meeting this month.

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS				
Patrah (foreign currency deposit rates) (20.6.96)				
Currency (deposit size)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS	Rate
U.S. dollar (\$50,000)	4.00	4.00	4.00	5.76
Pound sterling (£100,000)	1.875	1.875	1.875	2.0958
German mark (DM 200,000)	1.000	1.000	1.000	4.9785
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	1.000	1.000	1.000	0.6199
Yen (10 million yen)	1.000	1.000	1.000	2.9104
Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (2.7.96)				
Currency basket	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell
U.S. dollar	3.5919	3.5991	3.11	3.27
German mark	3.1704	3.2216	2.04	2.14
Pound sterling	2.0771	2.1107	0.80	0.84
French franc	4.9592	5.0395	0.80	0.84
Japanese yen (100)	0.6149	0.6340	0.25	0.26
Dutch guilder	2.8941	2.9207	0.25	0.26
Swiss franc	1.8215	1.8414	1.81	1.81
Swedish krona	2.5325	2.5732	0.45	0.46
Norwegian krona	0.4782	0.4851	0.47	0.47
Denish krone	0.5382	0.5478	0.22	0.22
Finland mark	0.6796	0.6929	0.58	0.58
Canadian dollar	2.2345	2.2625	2.24	2.40
Australian dollar	2.4845	2.5245	2.44	2.56
S. African rand	0.7316	0.7437	0.68	0.68
Belgian franc (10)	1.0295	1.0295	0.89	1.04
Austrian schilling (10)	2.9514	2.9521	2.80	2.80
Italian lira (1000)	2.0572	2.1008	2.05	2.05
Jordanian dinar	—	—	4.41	4.71
Syrian pound	—	—	0.80	0.86
SD	3.9400	4.0036	—	—
High para	5.0532	5.1448	4.97	5.22
Spanish peseta (100)	2.4712	2.5111	2.42	2.55

\* These rates vary according to bank. \*\* Bank of Israel.  
SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

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Key Representative Rates

Table with 2 columns: Rate Name and Change. Includes US dollar, Sterling, and Mark rates.

Polish developer to resume work near Auschwitz

WARSAW (Reuters) - A Polish developer, whose plans for a supermarket opposite the former Auschwitz death camp sparked an international row, said yesterday he would resume building work there despite official opposition.

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET. Includes sections for Multi-sided trading, Two-sided trading, AFTERNOON, and MORNING. Lists various stocks with prices and changes.

Stocks up slightly after budget cut announcement

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET. Summary statistics showing Two-Sided Index (+0.60%) and Maof Index (+0.75%).

STOCK indexes advanced as the government announced a budget cut of about NIS 5 billion, raising investors' hopes that the central bank will cut interest rates.

Wall Street slide hurts world markets

LONDON (Reuters) - An early decline on Wall Street helped wipe out initial gains in stocks amid cautious trading ahead of the key US monetary policy meeting of the Federal Open Market Committee.

Internet indecency ruling appealed to US Supreme Court

PHILADELPHIA (Reuters) - The federal government, in court papers released yesterday, asked the Supreme Court to overturn a landmark lower court decision blocking prohibitions against indecency on the Internet and other computer networks.

Sears keeps Whirlpool as key Kenmore supplier

CHICAGO (Reuters) - Sears, Roebuck and Co. said yesterday it decided to keep Whirlpool Corp. as the sole supplier of its Kenmore washing machines, ending the biggest phase of a massive review of vendors that has saved the retailer millions of dollars.

Lockheed-Martin wins reusable rocket contract

PASADENA, California (Reuters) - Vice President Al Gore yesterday said aerospace giant Lockheed-Martin Corp. has been awarded a nearly \$1 billion contract to build the next generation space shuttle.

NYSE closes lower pending Fed moves

NEW YORK (AP) - Stocks moved lower yesterday as investors took a cautious stance during the central bank's deliberations on interest rate policy.

CURRENCY CROSS-RATES. Table with columns for MARK, STERLING, YEN, SF, and FF, and rows for MARK, STERLING, YEN, SF, and FF.



# Weizman salutes Olympians

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ISRAEL'S Olympians can rest assured - President Ezer Weizman will be watching their every move on his TV set.

This was the message that Weizman relayed to the Olympic delegation last night as he bid them an official farewell at the Beit Hanassi in Jerusalem.

Weizman revived memories of the first Maccabiah in 1932, saying that under those conditions, "nobody even dreamed of the Olympics."

He continued that the 25 sportspeople, including seven immigrants, who will represent Israel in Atlanta, reflect "Jewish and international sport."

Israel's representative on the International Olympic Committee, Alex Gilady, awarded a medal to Israel's first Olympic medalist, judoka Yael Arad while fencer Lydia Hatoel-Zuckerman presented Weizman with the symbol of the delegation.

Ester Shabamorov-Roth, finalist in the 100 meters hurdles in Montreal 1976, addressed the delegation, sharing with them their pressures and expectations.

"The state has invested in you and now it wants results," she said, but "the most important thing is that you all return home safely."

The ceremony ended two days of final preparations for the squad which included a visit to the monument in Tel Aviv in memory of the 11 athletes murdered at the Munich Games and a stop at the Western Wall.

What did bronze medalist Oren Smadja request in the note he stuck into the wall? "The same thing I asked for in Barcelona. Then it came true so maybe this time it also will," he said.



GOOD LUCK - President Ezer Weizman and his wife, Reuma, wish success to Yael Arad (right) and the rest of the national Olympic delegation at a reception last night in Jerusalem. (Photo: Harel)

## Zabel wins third stage

NOGENT-SUR-OISE, France (AP) - Erik Zabel of Germany outprinted Monday's winner, Mario Cipollini of Italy to take the third stage of the Tour de France yesterday.

Frederic Moncassan of France (GAN) took enough bonus seconds during the day to take over the overall lead from Switzerland's Alex Zülle (Once) who had retained the first since the opening prologue Saturday.

As the other two stages so far, the sprint decided the winner of the Wasquehal to Nogent-sur-Oise, 195 kilometers. This time it was Zabel of the German Telekom team who held off Cipollini.

Cipollini had won on Monday but was dropped from second place to 37th on Sunday after he nearly drove pair of riders into the fence.

Today's fourth stage is from Soissons to Lac de Madrie, 232kms.

## Griffey, Piazza lead All-Star selections

NEW YORK (AP) - Ken Griffey Jr. and Mike Piazza were the top vote getters Moody in final fan balloting for the July 9 All-Star game in Philadelphia.

Griffey, the Seattle center fielder sidelined with a broken hand, received 3,064,814 votes, more than 500,000 more than the next closest player, Baltimore shortstop Cal Ripken.

Griffey, a seven-time All-Star, was also the top vote getter in 1994. However, he had surgery on his right hand June 20 and will not play in Philadelphia. He also missed last year's All-Star game because of a fractured left wrist.

Piazza was named on 2,272,115 ballots. The Los Angeles Dodgers catcher will be making his fourth All-Star appearance.

Major league baseball announced that more than 10 million ballots were cast, an increase of 73 percent over last year's total.

Cleveland teammates Albert Belle and Kenny Lofton. Belle received 1,692,409 votes and Lofton was named on 1,337,262 ballots.

The likely replacement for Griffey to the outfield is the fourth-place finisher, Baltimore's Brady Anderson, who leads the majors with 28 homers. The AL manager makes such a selection, although he is not bound to choose the next highest vote getter.

Ripken, the top vote getter in 1995, will be making his 12th All-Star appearance. He received 2,550,275 votes, easily outdistancing Cleveland's Omar Vizquel (829,519).

- NATIONAL LEAGUE ALL-STAR STARTERS: Catcher-Mike Piazza, Los Angeles; First Base-Fred McGriff, Atlanta; Second Base-Craig Biggio, Houston; Third Base-Matt Williams, San Francisco; Shortstop-Barry Larkin, Cincinnati; Outfielders-Dante Bichette, Colorado; Lance Berkman, San Francisco; Tony Gwynn, San Diego; RESEVES: Catcher-Todd Hundley, New York; Jason Kendall, Pittsburgh; Infielders-Jeff Bagwell, Houston; Mark Grudzielniak, Montreal; Chappie Jones, Atlanta; Ozzie Smith, St. Louis; Eric Young, Colorado; Outfielders-Edie Bierke, Colorado; Lance Johnson, New York; Gary Sheffield, San Diego; PITCHERS: Ricky Bottalico, Philadelphia; Kevin Brown, Florida; Tom Cavina, Atlanta; Al Leiter, Florida; Greg Maddux, Atlanta; Pedro Martinez, Montreal; John Smoltz, Atlanta; Steve Trachsel, Chicago; Mark Wohlers, Atlanta; Todd Worrell, Los Angeles.

# Sampras, Graf, Date advance at Wimbledon

WIMBLEDON (AP) - Pete Sampras and Steffi Graf overwhelmed their opponents in straight sets yesterday to move closer to retaining their Wimbledon titles.

The top-seeded Sampras served 17 aces - including two in the final game - to reach the quarterfinals with a 6-4, 6-4, 6-2 win over 16th-seeded Cedric Pioline of France.

"This is probably my best match so far of the fortnight," said Sampras, who is bidding for his fourth straight title. "I returned about as well as I could. I didn't serve that great but it was really a solid performance."

Graf advanced to the semifinals by outplaying sixth-seeded Jana Novotna 6-3, 6-2 in a match that had none of the drama of the 1993 final, when Novotna blew a 4-1 lead in the third set and wound up crying on the shoulder of the Duchess of Kent.

Graf will next face 12th-seeded Kimiko Date of Japan, who rallied to beat a demoralized Mary Pierce 3-6, 6-3, 6-1. From 3-3 in the second set, Date won nine of the next 10 games to take the match as the 13th-seeded Pierce caved in and stopped running for some shots that were just two steps away.

The other women's semifinal will pit fourth-seeded Arantxa Sanchez Vicario against unseeded American Meredith McGrath.

Sanchez Vicario, last year's losing finalist, needed just one hour and nine minutes to beat Austria's Judith Wiesner, 6-4, 6-0. The Spaniard was down 3-1 in the first set but won 11 of the next 12 games to run out the match.

McGrath surprised ninth-seeded Mary Joe Fernandez 6-3, 6-1 to reach her first Grand Slam semifinal.

"I just stopped shaking five about five minutes ago," McGrath said. "I'm really excited to be here. Coming into the tournament, I never expected (to get this far). It never crossed my mind."

Sampras broke Pioline four times, converting all four of his break points. He never lost serve, saving all four break points against him.

Sampras' biggest scare came in the first game of the third set when he hurdled his chair after running full speed for a sharply-angled shot by Pioline.

"I had only one place to go and that was up," Sampras said.

He landed with both feet on top of a three-foot-high ball container. As his racket flew out of his hands, Sampras somehow managed to keep his balance and drop safely to the ground.

Sampras' next opponent will be

unseeded Richard Krajicek, who upset No. 10 Michael Stich, the 1991 champion, 6-4, 7-6(7-5), 6-4. Krajicek, a 1.96m Dutchman with a huge serve, said he played one of the best grass-court matches of his life to reach his first Wimbledon quarter-final.

Stich said he was bothered by a sore shoulder and was serving below par.

Also reaching the men's quarter-finals were Americans Todd Martin and MaliVai Washington and Romanian-born Alexander Radulescu of Germany.

Despite a back strain, the unseeded Washington downed Paul Haarhuis 6-3, 6-4, 6-2 in less than two hours to advance to the first Grand Slam quarter-final of his career.

Washington will next face the 91st-ranked Radulescu, who beat South African qualifier Neville Godwin 6-3, 6-0, 6-4. Radulescu served 10 aces to bring his tournament-leading total to 101.

Martin, the only remaining seed in the bottom half of the draw at No. 13, completed a 3-6, 6-3, 7-5, 6-2 win over Sweden's Thomas Johansson. The match had been suspended by darkness Monday after the third set.

This is the first time in the Open era that only three seeded players reached the quarter-finals.

## BASEBALL SCOREBOARD

MONDAY'S NL RESULTS:			
Atlanta	7	Montreal	2
San Francisco	9	Colorado	6
Pittsburgh	4	Chicago	1
Houston	6	Florida	2
Philadelphia	4	New York	4
Cincinnati	8	St. Louis	5
Los Angeles	10	San Diego	2

## SPORTS BRIEFS

Portugal's Futre joins West Ham... Booth signs with Sheffield Wednesday... Cohen takes honors at Caesarea... [Other sports news items]

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# NRP: Ne'eman should run Religious Affairs

SARAH HONIG

THE National Religious Party yesterday proposed that Justice Minister Ya'acov Ne'eman get the Religious Affairs portfolio and that it and Shas each get a deputy minister. But Shas rejected this latest attempt to resolve the dispute over which party would get control over the coveted portfolio for the first two years of the government's term, before handing it over to the other for the subsequent two years.

The only positive development was the fact that Shas put off its deadline for pulling out of the coalition from today to Friday. If it does not receive the portfolio by then, it threatens to leave the coalition. The NRP has issued a similar ultimatum.

Likud insiders believe neither party really wants to bring down the government, and that the dispute will end with some form of compromise. The portfolio is formally still being held by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Netanyahu had already decided to give the ministry to Shas first, but had to put off giving them the portfolio due to the NRP's vehement protests. Netanyahu finally asked Ne'eman to try to work out an agreement between the two parties, but so far he has not succeeded.

The idea of giving Ne'eman the portfolio came from the NRP's MK Hanan Porat, who noted that Ne'eman is observant and highly regarded by both the religious-Zionist camp and the haredim.

While Porat suggested each party then get a deputy minister, he made no reference to which of the two parties would get to appoint the new director-general.

Shas spokesmen said yesterday the party had never been approached with this idea, but rejected it in any case.

According to Shas, the NRP proposal was not much different from a previous suggestion to turn the portfolio over to United Torah Judaism. The NRP suggested that if it went in the UTJ, then the UTJ could yield its Housing portfolio, which could then be handed to Likud MK Ariel Sharon, thereby ending two problems with one move.

Shas accuses the NRP of seeking all sorts of solutions to prevent Shas from getting the portfolio.

Shas proposed that it get the portfolio first, but that any appointment it would make would be contingent on NRP approval. Shas argues that the NRP is fearful Shas would fill the ministry with its own appointees if it gets the ministry first.

The NRP responded to this proposal by saying it had not heard of it and in any case rejects it.

Ne'eman had also been asked by Netanyahu to find a way of putting together the new national infrastructure portfolio for Sharon, but has so far not succeeded in getting any minister to help create the new ministry.



Immigrants from the US and Canada mark American Independence Day, celebrated tomorrow, and Canada Day, which was Monday, at the annual AACI picnic held yesterday in Jerusalem's Sacber Park.

## Tichon vetoes 'insulting' Netanyahu questions

LIAT COLLINS

"WHO are you Binyamin Netanyahu?" The Knesset might never hear the answer to this question.

Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon (Likud) yesterday removed from the agenda a motion bearing this title, saying the phrasing was "insulting" and had not been approved by his office.

The motion, filed by MK Dafia Itzik (Labor), referred to investigative reports on Netanyahu's years in the United States, which have appeared in local newspapers.

Tichon relied on Clause 78 of the Knesset House Rules, which requires that all motions to the agenda be approved by the Speaker, who can refuse to permit

them if the phrasing or contents are insulting. He said the motion was based on rumors.

MK Ophir Pines (Labor) immediately took to the plenum floor to protest the decision, noting that Tichon had previously refused to accept two other motions on Netanyahu's past.

"I have a nasty feeling that we in the opposition are not being allowed to put on the agenda the subject of the prime minister's identity, according to the investigative reports of *Ha'ir* and *Kol Ha'ir*," Pines said. "This decision follows the invalidation of a parliamentary question I filed on the

question of the classified information [status] the US government placed on Netanyahu's personal file and, in particular, the question of the identity of John Sullivan, who used Netanyahu's social security number."

Pines said the Labor faction would consider filing a High Court petition on the subject.

Meretz leader Yossi Sarid later filed a motion to the agenda under the title "Who are you, John J. Sullivan?" to protest the ban on Itzik's motion.

Sarid told reporters that although he does not usually deal with issues of a personal nature, his motion is to protest what he sees as "a grave and dangerous precedent."

## Group wants A-G to lift Pinhasi's immunity

EVELYN GORDON

THE Movement for Quality Government in Israel yesterday petitioned the High Court of Justice to order the attorney-general to ask the Knesset to lift Shas MK Raphael Pinhasi's immunity so he can stand trial.

The petition was filed a day after a petition by Meretz, which asked that Pinhasi not be allowed to serve as chairman of the House Committee.

However, the new petition may get short shrift in the court, because Ben-Yair has not yet refused to do as the movement asks. It is a general rule that the court will review decisions that have already been made, but will not tell any government body in advance what decision it should make.

The movement asked Ben-Yair a week ago to resubmit his request for lifting Pinhasi's immunity to the new Knesset and Ben-Yair is still studying the issue.

However, the movement said that, given the urgency of the issue, one week should have been more than enough for Ben-Yair to reach a decision. It hopes to pressure him into doing so by means of the petition.

The draft indictment which Ben-Yair's predecessor, Yosef Harish, prepared in 1993 charges Pinhasi with attempted fraud, falsifying corporate documents, conspiracy to commit a crime, and submitting a false declaration to the state comptroller. All charges relate to Shas's 1988 election campaign, during which Pinhasi hired yeshiva students, who are not allowed to work because they receive draft deferrals. He then allegedly failed to report this to the tax authorities and submitted a false set of books to the state comptroller.

The Knesset agreed to lift his immunity in March 1993, but Pinhasi petitioned the High Court against this decision and the court ordered a revote. During the revote, in July 1993, the Knesset decided not to lift his immunity.

## Sarid: Knesset needs language lessons

MERETZ leader Yossi Sarid has suggested appointing a linguistic adviser to the Knesset.

In a letter to Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon, Sarid said: "During the festive opening of the 14th Knesset important words were said by important people, but the words were flawed by painful linguistic blunders. Out of respect for the speakers, I won't repeat examples here; but the opening session was not unusual in this," Sarid said.

### WEATHER

Golan	18-32
Haifa	22-31
Tiberias	22-30
Ashdod	21-25
Samarita	18-24
Tel Aviv	24-30
Jerusalem	19-24
Beer Sheva	21-29
Dead Sea	26-41
Eilat	29-42

Forecast: Partly cloudy to clear. Rise in temperatures. Hot and dry. Humid along the coast.

### AROUND THE WORLD

Month	Low	High	Wind	Cloud
Amsterdam	50	60	17	85
Buenos Aires	55	70	14	87
Calcutta	70	85	10	80
Chicago	68	78	10	80
Copenhagen	55	65	12	80
Helsinki	55	65	12	80
Hong Kong	75	85	10	80
London	55	65	12	80
Los Angeles	65	75	10	80
Moscow	55	65	12	80
New York	65	75	10	80
Paris	55	65	12	80
Stockholm	55	65	12	80
Tokyo	65	75	10	80
Washington	65	75	10	80

### Winning cards

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the 10 of spades, queen of hearts, nine of diamonds, and ace of clubs.

## Golan leaders ask PM to make Sharon minister

DAVID RUDGE

GOLAN Heights leaders are urging Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to appoint Ariel Sharon minister of national infrastructure.

The call was made yesterday by Katrin local council chairman Sammy Bar-Lev and Golan regional council head Yehuda Wolman, a Labor Party member.

They are also pressuring Netanyahu to immediately implement the Golan 2000 development program aimed at increasing the Jewish population of the region by a further 10,000 people by the year 2000.

The plan calls for a NIS 660 million government investment over the next four years to expand and improve infrastructure, including roads, industrial areas, sewage and water networks, and public buildings.

Bar-Lev and Wolman noted that Netanyahu had promised, prior to the elections, that as prime minister he would implement the development program.

"They intend to raise the matter with Netanyahu in a meeting to be held on Sunday and also press him to appoint Sharon as minister for national infrastructure."

"We are not saying this in order to get Sharon a job, but because we know from past experience that he is best man for the job, for the country generally and the Golan in particular," said Bar-Lev.

"Sharon has done a great deal to help promote development of the Golan and nobody else could do it in the same way and certainly not on the same scope as he can."

"We want to utilize the next four years to expand the Golan and increase the population and lay the groundwork for further development afterwards. For those reasons we are calling for Sharon to be made a senior member of the government and put in charge of national infrastructure," Bar-Lev added.

## Religious parties vie for powerful ministry

BACKGROUND  
HAIM SHAPIRO

TO understand why the Religious Affairs Ministry is so hotly sought after by the religious parties, one need only take a quick look at its budget for this year. This shows that, of the total expenditure of NIS 1.2 billion, some 53 percent - or NIS 644 million - went to support for Torah institutions.

Although the National Religious Party and Shas have agreed to share the ministry, with each providing a minister for two years of the four-year term, both parties are so determined to get the ministry first that each has declared it will leave the coalition if it does not.

Even the United Torah Party, which is supposedly not in the running for the ministry, appears eager to take it over. In fact, Rabbi Eliezer Schach, mentor of the Degel Hatorah branch of the party, told his followers they should give up the Housing Ministry with its vast resources, in order to take over the Religious Affairs

Ministry. Even beyond the sum allocated to yeshivot, the ministry has a profound influence on religious institutions in Israel and, far more important, over the officials who head these institutions.

There is, for example, NIS 62.8m, which is set aside for "Torah and haredi culture," an allocation which former religious affairs minister MK Shimon Shetret described as going almost entirely to Shas institutions. Shetret also pointed out that, in addition to the funds which went directly to yeshivot, another allocation went to supplement the income of those studying in these institutions.

Arye Frenkel, haredi political analyst, says that for the haredi world, it is this ministry which is the pivot of power. "Although the government ministries give services to the entire population, the

Religious Affairs Ministry was set up specifically to serve the haredi public," Frenkel says.

He notes that, in addition to the funds distributed to Torah institutions, additional amounts are allocated for Torah and halachic research. All this is virtually only of interest to the haredi and Orthodox public, he maintains.

The ministry does allocate funds which are meant to serve the general population, in the form of grants for *mitva*'s (ritual baths), synagogues, cemeteries, rabbinical courts, and religious councils, he says, but he adds that even here, the minister can use his power to wield political influence in the religious field.

In the minister, Frenkel says, can appoint hundreds of members of local religious councils throughout the country. The minister can also influence the appointment of city rabbis, neighborhood rabbis, and rabbinical court judges.

"Those are all prizes for your supporters," Frenkel says.

## Knesset to form 'media committee'

LIAT COLLINS

THE Knesset will have a committee to liaise with the media, Speaker Dan Tichon said yesterday.

Tichon, who was one of the MKs who fought for live broadcasts from the Knesset, told parliamentary reporters he is interested in widening the coverage, particularly of economic committees. He has proposed fixing an 11 p.m. cut-off hour for plenum activity to avoid the situation in which MKs are seen speaking to an empty chamber in the early hours of the morning.

Tichon spent his first week in office meeting with Knesset staff and MKs. Many of the MKs complained about the seating arrangements in the plenum and the rooms they have been allocated. He said he hopes the Knesset

will soon begin functioning fully, but noted that until the problem of an appointment to the Knesset House Committee has been solved, no other committees can begin their work.

The House Committee appointment is being delayed pending the High Court decision on a petition filed by Meretz Leader Yossi Sarid against the candidate for the chair, MK Raphael Pinhasi, on grounds the attorney general has asked Shas's immunity be lifted so he can be tried for fraud. An added problem is that it is the House Committee that has to vote on lifting an MK's immunity. The Speaker has not yet received the opinion of Knesset legal adviser Zvi Labor or Attorney-General Michael Beo-Yair on the subject.

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- H. THE URBAN GORILLA
- I. CATS: CARESSING THE TIGER
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- K. THE INVISIBLE WORLD
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- M. THE REALM OF THE ALLIGATOR
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